

المرجع	IOR/R/15/1/477
العنوان	"ملف 53/7 D 7 (D) شؤون الكويت، يناير ١٩٠٥ - ديسمبر ١٩٠٥"
التاريخ/ التواريخ	٠٩ يناير ١٩٠٥٠-٩ ديسمبر ١٩٠٥ (ميلادي)
لغة الكتابة	الإنجليزية و العربية في اللاتينية بالأحرف والعربية
الحجم والشكل	ملف واحد (١٨١ ورقة)
المؤسسة المالكة	المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند
حق النشر	المُلكية العامة

حول هذا السجلّ

يحتوي هذا الملف على مراسلات بين مسؤولين بريطانيين بخصوص التطورات السياسية في الكويت والمناطق المجاورة لها.

تتناول المراسلات النزاع المستمر بين الشيخ عبد العزيز بن عبد الرحمن بن فيصل آل سعود وحاكم إمارة جبل شمر ورئيس الأسرة الحاكمة لقبيلة شمر (آل رشيد) عبد العزيز بن متعب، وكذلك محاولات العثمانيين للتدخل العسكري لدعم الرشيديين وإعادة تأكيد سلطتهم في المنطقة.

عدد قليل من الرسائل التي يحتويها الملف عبارة عن مراسلات مباشرة بين الشيخ مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت والعديد من المسؤولين البريطانيين. تبحث هذه المراسلات علاقات الكويت مع كلٍ من العثمانيين والبريطانيين.

يتضمن الملف نقاشًا مطولاً بشأن رغبة السلطات البريطانية باعتبار جزيرة بوبيان جزءًا من

المنطقة الخاضعة لسيطرة الشيخ مبارك (على حساب العثمانيين).

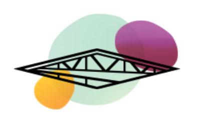
صفحة الغلاف



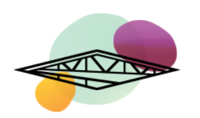
"ملف 53/7 D 7 (D شؤون الكويت، يناير ١٩٠٥ - ديسمبر ١٩٠٥" [أمامي] (٣٦٦/١)

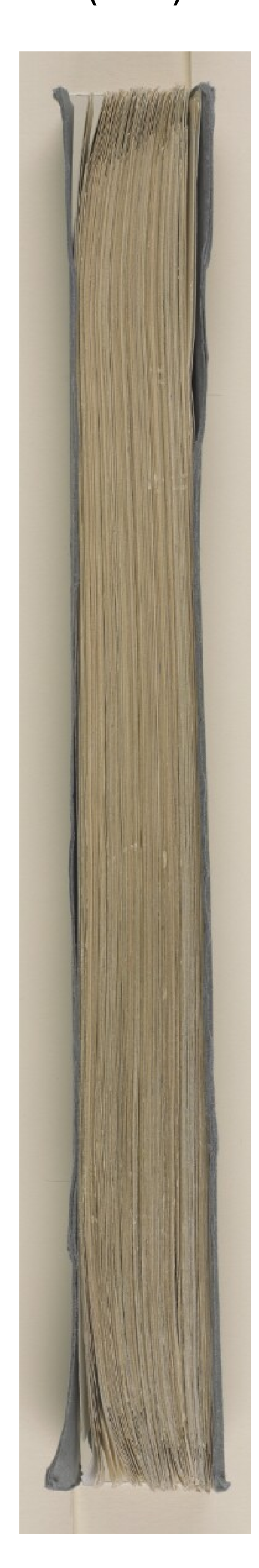
IOR: R15/1/477









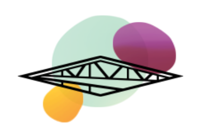


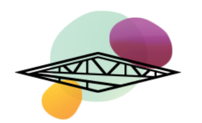












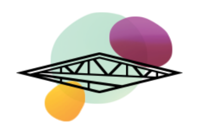
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D7.

Koweit Affairs R|15|1|477

January 1905 – December 1905.

53/7 D.



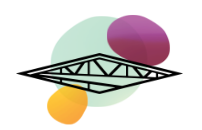


(2)

INDEX to file 53/7 D. "D.7".

KOWEIT AFFAIRS.

1905.





(3)

Bubyan (contd).

O'Conor's views - p.127. (22-3-04).

O'Conor's remonstrances to Porte against posts at Umm Kasr and Bubyan - p.131, 165.

Tewfik Pasha said ....limits of Shaikh's province were very vague and proofs should be produced showing that Bubyan belonged to him - the mere fact that Koweit fishermen repaired this annually was in itself no proof of possession or ownership - p.151.

O'Conor replied that Sheikh's authority was unquestioned til Porte sent detachment there.

Government of India's suggestions for measures to cause evac tion of island by Turks - p.132.

Proposal to establish balancing posts on North shore of island (see Resident's views at p.119).

Govt. of India to Secy. of State - p.144 (4-2-04).

"It would be difficult now, and we would not propose "to try, to induce Turks to abandon occupation (of "Umm Kasr) which for the past year they have been per- "mitted to maintain. The case of Bubyan is regarded " as entirely different x x x ".

Appointment of Political Agent to Koweit - p.157a, 162.





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1. Re: Decoration & allowance to Shaikh Mubarak -





C0002 (5)

Confidential

R 168
18.1.05

From the
Political Agent, Koweit
To the
Resident &
H. B. M's Consul General
in the Persian Gulf
Bushire

No: 146. Dy. Koweit
9/1/5.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that, at my interview with Sheikh Mobarak on the 30th December, he informed me that he considered that Government should grant him pay for his services & asked me what I thought of the proposal.

2. I avoided giving a direct reply & Mobarak did not press for one. I would solicit the favour of instructions as to what answer, if any, should be given to Sheikh Mobarak should he again raise the question,




as he probably will
3
I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
S G Knox Captain
Political Agent Koweit.



2. Arrest of agent of a Mercantile friend of Mubarak, at Busrah.





No. 87, dated Bushire, the 12th (received the 21st) February 1905.

From—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the correspondence detailed in the margin on the subject of the deportation to Constantinople of certain Arabs in whom the Shaikh is interested.

Letter No. 179, dated 23rd January, from Captain S. G. Knox, Political Agent, Koweit, with enclosure
Letter No. 6, dated 4th February, from J. H. Monahan, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, and of my letter No. 149 of 1st February, to which it is a reply.

2. In view of the terms of the reply of His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, it does not appear to me that I can do any more in the matter, and I therefore refer it to the Government of India for any action that they may feel called upon to take.

I shall duly report any information on the subject that I may receive from the Political Agent, Koweit.

No. 179, dated the 23rd January 1905.

From—Captain S. G. Knox, C.I.E., Political Agent, Koweit,
To—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to forward herewith the translation of a letter received from Shaikh Mubarak in which he complains of the arrest of the Bussorah Agent of one of his influential Nejd friends who handles most of Shaikh Mubarak's business.

2. The firm of Ul-Khathair to which Fahad bin Khalid, also mentioned in the letter, belongs is the most wealthy house in Koweit.

3. The news of the arrest of these people had reached me two days before Shaikh Mubarak's letter came, and I had noted in a draft for my weekly diary that it was reported that they had been arrested at the instance of Ibn Rashid who is said to have managed to get the orders issued at Constantinople.

4. The explanation of the whole affair according to Koweit opinion is as follows:—

> The local Turkish Official, His Excellency the Wali of Bussorah, a friend of Shaikh Mubarak, was making an honest attempt to solve the Nejd affair, in the best interests of his own Government at least, by coming to terms with Ibn Saood; as all influential people in Nejd were tired of the constant fighting and anarchy that has prevailed there for the last five years and as Shaikh Mubarak and Ibn Saood were forced to defer to public opinion and give up the hopes of British protection for Ibn Saood His Excellency's efforts promised to be successful. This solution meant nothing less than the extinction of Ibn Rashid who directed this last blow at Shaikh Mubarak to destroy all chance of a successful meeting at Sefwan.

5. It is reported here that on receipt of the orders to imprison the merchants His Excellency telegraphed a remonstrance on the ground that the men were respectable and influential merchants. He received a reply to say that they must be sent at once to Constantinople. The men start immediately.

6. The Shaikh was, I hear, much disturbed at the news of the arrest of these men and the report is to my mind confirmed by this letter which was brought to me by his confidential Secretary who had evidently received orders to explain the matter to me thoroughly and to do all he could to induce me to take the warmest interest in the case. The tone of the letter is quite different from any I have hitherto received from the Shaikh. It reads more like an Indian petition than an Arabic letter.

7. I asked Mulla Abdulla whether Shaikh Mubarak would go to Sefwan after all and he said "Yes". There was a distinct note of fretfulness when he said—"The great Government is too far away to look after us. We don't



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know what its policy is. Meshed Ali (Nejef) is full of soldiers and the Nejd people are tired of this everlasting fighting. They don't know how to feed and clothe their children. Nothing but fighting." He went on to tell me how Shaikh Mubarak hated the Turks and that Ibn Saood's coming had been delayed, but that the latest news was that he was due at Jahra on the 27th instant and that Nasir bin Saood, the messenger whose arrival here was reported in my diary under date 18th January, was now in Bussorah.

8. The immediate object of the Shaikh's letter may possibly be attained by the good offices of His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bussorah, but it is difficult to know what to suggest as a remedy for these constant skilfully disguised attacks aimed at Shaikh Mubarak as a punishment for having sought our protection.

9. There remains nothing for me to add except that I saw Shaikh Mubarak on the morning of the 23rd instant. He confirmed all that has been said above without my asking for confirmation except that when I asked if Ibn Saood would go to Sefwan he said that he was not sure, that both Ibn Saood and the people of Aneyza would be greatly alarmed at the turn things had taken and that unless some measures were taken to counteract the latest move of the Turks or rather as he put it of Ibn Rashid and Yusuf bin Brahim, Ibn Saood would return direct to Nejd, the Turkish troops would march from Nejef Ali and Nejd would again be plunged into war. He said apparently quite seriously that if His Excellency's advice was not taken with regard to local matters of this kind he ought to resign.

10. Incidentally it may be of interest to note that he contrasted the behaviour of the Indian Government who allowed Yusuf-el-Brahim's Bombay house to trade in perfect security in spite of the fact that Yusuf's men had fired on the crew of a British man-of-war, wounding two men, and that of the Turkish Government who, on the accusation of men like Ibn Rashid and Yusuf-el-Brahim, threw the affairs of an important mercantile firm into confusion.

He again impressed upon me the fact that Yusuf-el-Brahim, who, it was arranged, should stay at the Hejjaz, was back in Nejef (Meshed Ali) in close communication with the Mushir of Baghdad and doing all the mischiefs he could.

Translated purport of a letter, dated 15th Zi-ul-Kada 1322 = 22nd January 1905, from SHAIKH MUBARAK of Koweit, to Captain S. G. KNOX, Political Agent, Koweit.

After compliments.—Suleiman-us-Shubeyli is an influential merchant in Bussorah and he lives himself in the town of Aneyzah (Nejd) and his relations, Hamid-ul-Hammad, is his Busra Agent. This man, Suleiman-us-Shubeyli, is an able man and a manager of important affairs. For some years there have been business relations between him and myself and besides one of my own subjects a merchant Fahad-ul-Khalid-ul-Khazavi is in business relations with him and his partner and friend; and the bulk of the trading monies of the aforesaid house are to return to me and Fahad-ul-Khalid.

Now Hamid-ul-Hammad who is agent for Suleiman-us-Shubeyli has been seized by the Turkish Government and they have imprisoned him on receipt of an order that they should take him away to Constantinople.

This merchandize is the most of it ours and the money that belongs to us and to Fahad-ul-Khalid is about 1,00,000 reals (£9,000) and the business relations between us can be verified from the account books in the house.

Now the house is empty and no one is looking after the property and offices.

Hamid-ul-Hammad has given the keys to Farhan, the son of Fahad-ul-Khalid, in Bussorah and Farhan also is afraid even to open the house. He only keeps the keys with him and looks after matters from a distance but does not take care of them.

Now our affairs are in danger and Hamid-ul-Hammad has just sent a letter to Fahad-ul-Khalid asking him to look after his affairs appointing him his sole agent and saying that he should send one of his brothers or that Farhan is present in Bussorah.



Now we, from the practices of seditious evil workers, our enemies, and the listening of the Turkish Government to their false inventions, are unable to appoint Farhan or anyone of the brothers of Fahad. We fear lest afterwards they should seize him—except with the written consent of the Wali of Bussorah that the man should arrange the affairs of the house or manage the merchandize or rather gather the things and account books together and bring them to Koweit. And we inform you of every thing that happens to us. This petition was necessary and in your high sight is sufficient and may you remain guarded.

No. 149, dated the 1st February 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah.

I have the honour to forward a translation of a letter, dated 22nd January, addressed by the Shaikh of Koweit to Captain S. G. Knox, complaining of the arrest of the Bussorah Agent of his friend Suleiman-bin-Shubeyli, a merchant who handles some of Mubarak's money and who is also in partenership with one of the latter's subjects.

I shall be glad if you will be so good as to let me have any information which you can obtain in corroboration of this complaint, or otherwise, and trust that if there appear to you to be grounds for it you will use your good offices with the local authorities or communicate with His Majesty's Ambassador on the subject.

No. 6, dated the 4th February 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

With reference to your letter No. 149 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform you that as I reported on the 22nd ultimo to His Majesty's Embassy Hamid-al-Hammad and two other Nejdi merchants were on that day or a day or two before shipped for Baghdad for giving information to Ibn Saood about Turkish military preparations. There is no doubt that the three had been in constant communication with Ibn Saood. I have not heard of the business relations with Shaikh Mubarak but am inquiring.

G.J. C. I. O.—No. 6103 F. D.—25-2-1905.—67.—P. K. B.



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(9)

CC0057 9

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 582 Date 2-3-1905 PERSIAN GULF

No 8.

British Consulate

Bussorah Febry 18,1905.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No 149 of the 1st instant enclosing a complaint from Sheikh Mubarek and to my reply thereto, I have the honour to state further what follows.

There is hardly any if any merchandise in the place of business on question and no merchandise belonging to Fahid el Khalid or Sheikh Mubarek.

Farhan has the key of the safe and freely enters the place which is occupied by one Jauhir agent of Shubeyli. Last date season Fahid el Khalid and Shubeyli as partners invested about £T 3000 in dates in the Vilayet of Bussorah which were shipped, but the result is not yet known to them. Mubarek may have been concerned in this venture, but does not appear to be in any danger of losing money through the exile of Hamed el Hammad.

My above information is from Jauhir. Farhan though repeatedly applied to has hitherto evaded giving my repre--sentative any information.

1/3

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

J. H. Monahan.

Ag British Consul, Bussorah.

Major P.Z.Cox C.I.E.

H.M's Resident & Consul General

Bushire.





(10)

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No: 118 of 1905. 00098

British Residency and Consulate-General
Bushire 5-7/4 March 1905.

From,

Captain A.P.Trevor I.A.
for Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf

To,

S.M.Fraser Esquire C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department
C A L C U T T A.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No: 87 dated 18th February 1905 regarding the deportation to Constantinople of certain Arabs in whom Shaikh Mubarak is interested, I have the honour to forward for the information of Government copy of a letter received from H.M.'s Consul at No:8 dated 18th February 1905) Bussorah on the subject.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
APT
Captain
First Assistant
for Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.





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(11)

00009

Miscellaneous Kowait Affairs





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(12)

Confidential

R 167
18.1.05

No. 135

From

Captain S. G. Knox, I.A.,
Political Agent, Kowait.

To,

The Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Dated Kowait 4th January 1905.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on the 30th December, I visited Shaikh Mobarak at his encampment at Thamilat-ul-Gah about 12 miles from Jahra.

2. The Shaikh informed me that, during my absence on tour, letters had reached him from H. E. the Wali of Bussorah purporting to send the orders of the Sultan that Bin Saood and Shaikh Mobarak were to come and meet H. E. at Safwan with

المرجع: IOR/R/15/1/477 حق النشر: رخصة حكومة مفتوحة
اعرض على مكتبة قطر الرقمية: http://www.qdl.qa/العربية/archive/81055/vdc_100025813716.0x00001f



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a view to some arrangement being come to as to the future of Nejd.

3. These letters reached Sheikh Mobarak sometime before the 23rd December for the open letter to Bin Saood which Mobarak was to read and despatch left for Riadh on Saturday the 24th December and should have reached Bin Saood at the time Sheikh Mobarak and myself were discussing the situation on the 30th.

4. The letter to Sheikh Mobarak was, so he told me, couched in very friendly terms, and promised him that he should be made ruler of Nejd and more than Nejd. The letter to Bin Saood was also friendly but Mobarak was emphatic on the point that



 19 (13)

it said that nothing could or would be done for Bin Saood, unless Sheikh Mobarak came into the Compact.

5. Sheikh Mobarak informs me that he expects Bin Saood in three weeks' time, say about the third week in January. I gathered that Mobarak doubted very much if the interview at Safwan would ever be held or that anything would come of it if it was. I also under-stood that Sheikh Mobarak had little or no intention of going. In any case, if Bin Saood went, he would go with a large following.

6. Sheikh Mobarak also in-formed me definitely that the troops to start from Samawah had been disbanded and that no more would be heard of that project for some time.

%.



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7. The present juncture appears to a certain extent critical and I would solicit the favor of instructions as to what course I should pursue in the event of a visit of Bin Saood to Koweit.

8. In the absence of any instructions, I propose to endeavour to make Bin Saood's acquaintance and if he mentions the subject of protection to say that I have duly forwarded his letters but that no reply has been received as yet.

9. Sheikh Mobarak will be out hawking for a few days in the neighbourhood but should return to Koweit about the 4th or 5th of January.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
S.G. Knox Captain
Political Agent,
Koweit.



(14)

CCC13 18

Telegram P.

To

FOREIGN

CALCUTTA.

16th January 1905
17th

According to reports received from Knox by mail today the arri--val of bin Saood in or near Koweit is imminent . He is en route to bring off the meeting with the Wali of Bussorah at Safwan .

The presence of Shaikh of Koweit at meeting has been made a sine qua non and Mubarak is making preparations to proceed there escorted by a precautionary guard of 1000 men .

In conversations with Knox regarding this important event the Shaikh has more than once impressed upon him what a desirable measure it would be for Nejd and Ibn Saood to be brought under British protection and how e arnestly such a course is wished for both by himself and his ally . If such protection cannot be accorded Ibn Saood, he says , will have no other course than to admit Turks into Nejd .

Concurrently with these expressions of opinion , but independently , Shaikh Mubarak has stated to Knox that he thinks he is entitled to be paid by the British Government for his services .

It would seem from the above that the Shaikh of Koweit and Bin Saood are makiing use of the present developments to work upon our feelings , but a discreet and non-committal atti-tude has been maintained by Knox .

No doubt at the prospective meeting efforts will be made by the the Turkish representative to detach Mubarak from us and the latter will will I hope remain staunch , nevertheless the if he knows that while the meeting is in progress a British gun-boat is lying at Koweit , it may be a source of confidence



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as well as a deterrent to him. May I therefore request the "Sphinx" which is available, to go to Koweit and remain there until required at Bahrein.

Knox will not seek meeting with bin Saood but it may be forced upon him. In that case does the Government of India wish me to give him any special instructions.

[initials]

Telegram P.

18

(15)

From His Consul Basrah

To Resident.

Dated 23. Jany 05-

P— The Vali telegraphed to Constantinople on the 21st instant for instructions as to whether he might ~~arrange~~ have a meeting with Bin Saud's father, as suggested by a letter which he had received that day. The letter states that Bin Saud's father is in Koweit & suggests Safwan as place of meeting. Vali proposes Fao.

Monahan.

23/1/05





19 00014 (16)

Telegram T.P.

From

FOREIGN Calcutta .

Dated 23.1.05.

Received 24.1.05

Please refer to your telegram dated 17th Inst .
We repeat telegram from Secretary of State dated 30th December
for your information and guidance .

Begins ; I have the honour to refer you to Lord Ampthil's telegram dated 26th November 1904 regarding the position at Koweit . It is desired by H.M's Government that it should be clearly understood that we must restrict our interest and influence at Koweit strictly to the Coast-line of Eastern Arabia and that nothing should be said or done to connect us even in -directly with the warfare now in progress in the interior .

They concur in the opinion that PoliticalAgent should express no opinion to Shaikh Mubarak on the nature of the advice which he should or should not give to Bin Saood . On the contrary Knox should repeat to Mubarak the warnings which have already been given to the Shaikh (See Viceroy's Despatch NO 196 of 17th December 1903 Para. 12) against entanglement in the interior . They do not propose to make the temporary withdrawal of our Agent a concession to Turkey in return for any reciprocal action on their part but have reserved absolute- -ly their right to send an Agent to Koweit from time to time as they may consider necessary . Ends .

The Viceroy's Despatch referred to mentions his personal warning to the Shaikh not to expect support from us in the event of his entangling himself in the affairs of Nejd and Mubarak's promise to rely implicitly on the Viceroy's advice .
Knox should avoid meeting or communication with bin Saood unless the latter actualy enters Koweit . There is no objection to your asking "Sphinx" to proceed to Koweit now as a temporary measure .

PZC





20 (17)

00015

Telegram P.

From Consul , BUSSORAH

TO British Embassy , Constantinople.

(sent through Bushire)

Dated 31st January 1905 .

No 9

In continuation of my No7 . A telegram from Yusuf Ibrahim dispathhed from Baghdad has been received in Bus--sorah . He is now said to be with the Mushir in Nejef.

II.

From Consul Bussorah

To Foreign ,Calcutta and Embassy Constantinople .

(sent via Bushire) 31st Januaru 1905 .

In continuation of my Telegram No 6 . The Mushi at Nejef has sent the fowwing telegram to the Wali of Bussorah .

It begins with a couple of pages of cypher & Then en clair in Turkish : " Give message , sending by bag, communicate result " . Then " This is a copy "

Then in the ~~######~~ Sultan's name , and in Arabic , promises pardon for past offences and exhorts to avoid discord among Musulmans and to beware of infidels and accept good Government .. Then follows the Mushir's own signature with the addition of the Title , now used for the first time , " Director of Reforms " . Ends .

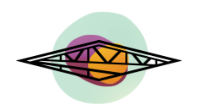
I believe this message has been forwarded to Koweit and that it means that the Sultan wishes to abandon force .

The Wali sent a messenger to Koweit on 22nd January .

Sent to Constantinople , repeated to Bushire.

PYC





D/O No. 50.

Confidential

Treat as official

R 243 / 31.1.05

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00016

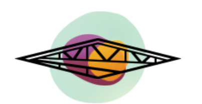
(18)

Koweit 27th January 1905.

My dear Major,

Many thanks for your demi official of the 24th January. [The warning was conveyed by me to Sheikh Mobarak at an interview on the afternoon of the 26th. The Sheikh took it exceedingly well and, though I watched keenly for any sign of disappointment or irritation, I could not detect anything of the kind.

2.



2. He assured me that he was abiding by his promise which he had not forgotten and confirmed his words when he came to see me this morning by a letter to your address which he asked me to read through.

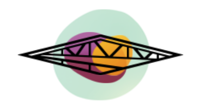
I enclose it herewith

Yours sincerely

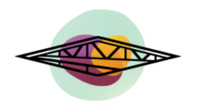
[signature]

To

Major P. Z. Cox. C.I.E.,



00017



٢٥

لرا رقعة

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الى جناب الاجل الافخم ميجر كاكس باليوز وقونسل جنرال الدوله البهيه الانكليزيه في خليج فارس دام
عزه بعد السؤال عن شريف خاطركم وثانياً اطلعنا على ورقتكم العاليه الواصله على يد الحاج قبطان ناكس وامرتم بعدم تداخلنا
في مساعدة ابن سعود بامور نجد وان قبل ذلك ويبين راي الهند آمرني بعدم التداخل صحيح بعد ذلك
انه يبين راي الهند آمرني اني ما اتداخل بمساعدة ابن سعود لاكن يا محب ما كنت انا اطلب ذلك من اوامركم
كيف يصير عندكم شبهه ولابد حفظتم العاليه الطلع على سيرتي لان معرفتي لم اجد تحفظني عن التداخل
بالامور الا ما تعنيني فانا ما ساعدت ابن سعود ولا تداخلت في امور نجد الذي يساعده لابد يدفع
رجال ومال ومن ذلك ما صار شي منا لاكن اهالي نجد كان اهالي كان عشاير مالهم غناة عن طرفنا
والتردد على طرفنا لان جميع حدا نجد اجناس والطعم يشترونها من طرفنا لاكن كون ابن سعود
محب لنا وابن رشيد معادينا بدون سبب الخفف بالرد وقد انتصار ابن سعود على ابن رشيد وابن
رشيد والنقيب يوسف الابراهيم واعدانهم يصدرون علينا الكذب وكنا بالا الى الانسان والماموريين
الترك الى بغداد والبصره والشام يعطون اهل الجرايد فلوس ويكتب على هذا قولهم والمراد ذلك
ابن رشيد وابن ابراهيم قائلين وكاتبين ان الدوله البهيه الانكليزيه مساعدين ابن سعود
في السلاح والطعام واموال وقد اعلن ذلك في جميع الجرايد فنحنا ما ادينا ذلك ولا صار منا
مساعده لبن سعود وغير ذلك ان حكومة البصره من اول شهر رمضان يكتبون لي اني اكتب لعبد الرحمن والايمانه عليه
لعبد الرحمن الفيصل يجي لصاحب الوالي في قرب البصره ورجعت لهم الجواب انا ما اكتب
انه اكتب له ومع كتابهم انا اكتب له وارغبه دون حياته عليه فبعد ذلك كتبت له على المجي واني
اخط ويصير التفاق بينهم ورأيت ان الصلح خير فكتبت له مع كتابهم ولاجل ذلك في وقته
اخبرنا ذو الجاه قبطان ناكس اجنت الدوله البهيه في الكويت ودمتم

سالمين محروس

٢٠ ذي القعده ١٣٢٢

From Sh. Mubarak
To Major Cox
d/ 20 Zil Kadeh 1322 / 26 Jany 1905
A.C. I have learnt the



orders wh. you had sent to Capt. Knox in regard to my not interfering in Ibn Saood's affairs relating to Nejd: similarly regarding what H.E. the Viceroy of India had said about my abstaining from interference. It is true that the Viceroy of India asked me not to assist Ibn Saood, but, my friend, I was not waiting for this order from you. What has created suspicions in you? You are no doubt aware of my ways that in matters wh. are of no interest to me, my nature prevents me



from interference. I
have neither assisted
nor meddled in Nejd
affairs. He who assists
must send men and
things & neither of these
has happened from
me. But the inhabitants
of Nejd are people
who are dependent
on our side & cannot
do without keeping
up intercourse
because their requirements
are purchased from
our side
But in case of Ibn
Saood being my friend
& Ibn Rashid my
enemy without any reason,
I naturally wish
that Ibn Saood be



successful over ~~him~~ Ibn Rashid.

Ibn Rashid & the wicked Yusuf el Ibrahim & their friends invent falsehoods regarding me & write to Constantinople & the Turkish officers at Baghdad & Bussorah. They also give money to newspaper proprietors so that they may write what they wish. More than this, Ibn Rashid & Yusuf Ibrahim have said & written that the British Govt. assist Ibn Saood with arms & guns & things & have published



this in all the newspapers.
I have however not seen
the same nor has any
assistance been rendered
by me.
Besides this, the fool
of Bussorah wrote to me
on 1st Ramazan 1322 asking
9.11.04
me to write to Abdul
Rahman bin Feisal to
come to meet the Wali
near Bussorah, & I
replied that I wd not
write to Abdul Rahman
nor wd I be the intermediary
"You write to him & I
"will write to him with
"your letter & will induce
"him without any mediation"



00020 (22)

After this they wrote to him to come & said I wd. be present & a meeting wd. take place. I saw that peace was advantageous so wrote to him with their letter & I acquainted Capt. Knox the Pol. Agent with the same at the time.

T. T. A.

[initials]
31.1.05.





P.P.

(23)

00021

From
Foreign Calcutta

Dpt. & recd. 26/1/05.

No: 361 E. B.

With reference to Foreign Dpt. Telegram No: 319 E.B. D/ 23rd Jan. Koweit.

Instructions been issued to "Sphinx" to proceed immediately to Koweit & on the 31st Jan: to call for further orders at Fao.

PZC





T.P.

From
H.B. M's Consul
Bussorah
3/2/05.

The Wali here has recd. telegram from Mushir from some place - asking him to send by certain persons message of good advice to Enemy of Ameer - but Wali replied that some of them had been sent to Constantinople as they were against Ameer & that the Ameer's agent refused to send message Substance sent to India & Constantinople





Confidential.

25

00023

53/7d R 27/3 4.2.05

No. 233 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 4259 E.B., dated 19th December 1904.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 18th January 1905.

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(1) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 861, dated the 8th November 1904.

(Received with letter No. 49, dated 2nd December 1904, from Political Secretary, India Office).

(2) Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia No. 947, dated 13th November 1904.

(3) Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 28th November 1904.

(4)





(26)

00024

+(4) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 895 Confidential, dated 22nd November 1904.

+(5) Despatch from Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 625, dated 2nd December 1904.

+(Received with letter No. 51, dated 16th December 1904, from Secretary, Political Department, India Office).

(6) Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for week ending 5th December 1904.

(7) ---- ditto ----- ------ ditto ------ for week ending 12th December 1904.

(8) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 919, dated 29th November 1904 - (Received with No. 52, dated 23rd December 1904, from Secretary, Political Department, India Office).

hm





(Received on 19th December with Political Secretary's letter No. 49 dated 2nd December 1904.)

KOWEIT.

[November 14.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE.—(Received November 14).

Constantinople,
November 8, 1904.

(No. 861. Secret.)

My Lord,

I LEARN from a secret source that Sadoun Pasha has written a letter protesting his true loyalty to the Sultan. He represents that he has been calumniated, and that the expedition against the Muntefik Arabs has caused slaughter and desolation throughout the country. He makes humble submission to the Sultan. The letter has been transmitted by the Grand Vizier to the Minister of War with a request for his views.

The Grand Vizier complained, as reported to Your Lordship in my despatch No. 857, to me on the 3rd instant of the intrigues of the Sheikh of Koweit with this same Sadoun Pasha.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 3728 F. D.—16-1-1905.—10—R. S. W.





No. 947, British Residency and Consulate General, dated Baghdad, 13th November (received 23rd December) 1904.

From—Major L. S. NEWMARCH, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and His Britannic Majesty's Consul General, Baghdad,

To—L. W. DANE, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government of India, the following information received by me after I had closed my diary of to-day's date. It is sent to you in letter form to save a post and a copy of it will also be sent to the Military Attaché at Constantinople.

I have heard that it has been decided to send the following troops to Bilad Kasim:—

1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, from Amarah. Commandant Ameen Yoonus, who is an Arab and a bribe-taker.

2nd Battalion, 44th Regiment, from Karbala. Major Amin Agha, an Arab, and said to be "long-eared" which is the local mode of describing an ass.

1st Battalion, 45th Regiment, from Baghdad. Major Ahmed Agha, an Arab, who enjoys the same reputation of being "long-eared."

12th Nishanji (rifles) from Nasariyeh. Major Tewfik Effendi, an Arab, and a bribe-taker.

1st Regiment Cavalry from Hillah. Commander Moostafa Beg, a Turk.

The artillery for this expedition will, it is said, consist of 100 gunners with 4 mountain guns carried on horses.

The transport will consist of camels and horses. It is said the route has not yet been decided.

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 28th November 1904.

* * * * * *

The Vice-Consul at Kerbala reports as follows about the recent expedition against Ibn Saoud:—

"A belief has long been entertained here by the public that the four regiments originally sent in support of Ibn Rashid have been entirely annihilated and that Ibn Rashid has sustained a serious defeat. This belief has been lately confirmed by the report of two privates who escaped from their regiment at Jabal and arrived here about ten days ago."

"They say that their force experienced great hardship and hunger while *en route* to and in Jabal, and that a few days after their arrival, the Amir (Ibn Rashid) ordered them to prepare for an attack on the enemy."

"The Amir placed the Turkish troops and their officers in front and his own men behind, the combined forces then entered Ibn Saoud's territory and without much difficulty or fighting captured four towns compelling Ibn Saoud and his followers to retreat."

"After that Ibn Rashid received a letter from one Ibn Bassam in Borreida (members of the Bassam family are found in Basra and Syria as large traders) telling him that he had contrived certain plans for the delivery of the place into his hands and asking him to go there with his forces as soon as possible."

"The Amir was deceived and started for Borreida where he was surprised and attacked by Ibn Saoud. The Amir and his men who were in the rear escaped with about 300 officers and men because they knew the roads, but the others remained fighting and were either killed or captured."

"All reports combine in giving an exceedingly pathetic account of the Turks in Ibn Rashid's hands at Jabal: they are said to be severely treated and scantily maintained."



"Two officers, a Meer Alai and a Colonel, were killed by the Amir in Jabal because they refused to obey the Amir's orders and make a second invasion after their defeat."

"The officers here are much incensed against the Amir but dare not express their feelings. The Amir has reported the occurrence to Constantinople and fresh troops have been ordered to support him. The new expedition will consist of four regiments of infantry, each about 300 strong: twelve to sixteen guns with men and officers forming one regiment and perhaps one regiment of mule riders. These six regiments will be raised from Baghdad, Amara Kerbala, Hillah, and Kerkuk, and Faizi Pasha, the late acting Vali of Baghdad, will be in command."

"The Government has sanctioned T. £5,000 for the necessary expenses but the late Vali has demanded T. £30,000."

"The Reserves which have been mobilised are for the purpose of replacing the soldiers of Faizi Pasha and these troops are to met at Najef and then follow the route taken by pilgrims to Jabal and Mecca; the transport will be by means of camels which will be supplied by the Amir."

"Besides these troops it is said that another force will be sent from Hedjaz, both to meet at Jabal."

"It is said that Faizi Pasha is very unwilling to go and has tried to get off this unexpected call to duty, but has failed to do so; he then asked to be allowed to proceed to Damascus with his troops and from there taking six more regiments proceed to Jabal: this also has been refused."

"Faizi Pasha is said to have appointed one Fahad, son of Abdul Mihsin, formerly official Sheikh of the Aniza tribe, to accompany him, but on the request of the Amir, who is on bad terms with Fahad, he was dismissed and another man has been appointed."

"This Fahad is said to be a friend of Ibn Saoud, and he was appointed to the Chieftanship of the Aniza tribe in order to win him over: what exactly was the object is not known."

"The Turkish officials and many others are looking on these disturbances with the belief that the English are at the bottom of it all."

* * * * * *

(~~Received on 26th December 1904 with Political Secretary's Letter No. 50, dated the 9th December 1904.~~)

~~KOWEIT.~~ [~~November 19.~~]

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~ ~~SECTION 1.~~

~~No. 1.~~

~~INDIA OFFICE to FOREIGN OFFICE.—(Received November 18).~~

~~The Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 13th October, relative to affairs of Nejd.~~

~~India Office,~~

~~16th November 1904.~~

~~Inclosure 1 in No. 1.~~

~~MAJOR COX to GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.~~

(~~Confidential.~~)

~~Bushire,~~

~~10th September 1904.~~

~~Telegram, [illegible], the 23rd (received 29th) December 1904.~~

~~From—M[illegible] P. Z. [illegible] C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,~~
~~To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.~~

~~Please refer to your telegram No. 4310-E.B., dated the 21st December 1904. News direct from Al Hasa, which I have been awaiting, confirm the report of a tendency towards rapprochement. I should not anticipate any immediate result from that denouement, but the Turks would doubtless foster an anti-foreign shibboleth to our detriment and would employ Bin Saud to seduce Mubarak from us. As long as we maintain the present arrangement I do not think we have much to fear; but if simultaneously with rapprochement, we get away or partially withdraw palpable support from Koweit, then the ultimate probability must be the secession of Mubarak.~~

~~Telegram, dated London, 20th (received 21st) December 1904.~~

~~From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,~~
~~To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Calcutta.~~

* * * * ~~His Majesty's Government desire that it should be clearly understood that their interest and influence are to be confined strictly to the coast line of Eastern Arabia and that nothing should be said or done to connect them even indirectly with warfare now in progress in the interior. They agree that Captain Knox should give no opinion on the nature of the advice to be given by Sheikh Mubarak to Ibn Saoud but should repeat to the former the warnings which have already been given (see paragraph 12 of the Viceroy's Despatch No. 196,* dated the 17th December 1903) against entanglement in the interior~~ * * * *

~~* See No. [illegible] in Secret E., Proceedings February 1904, Nos. [illegible]-137.~~

(Received with India Office letter No. 51, dated 16th December 1904.)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [November 28.]

CONFIDENTIAL. Section 6.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.—(Received November 28).

Constantinople,
November 22, 1904.

(No. 895. Confidential.)

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith despatches and paraphrase of telegram from His Majesty's Consular officers at Jeddah and Bussorah upon the subject of the preparations being made to despatch expeditions simultaneously from the east and west to the Nejd, where it is said that the Turkish Government propose to firmly establish Ottoman sovereignty by the creation of a vilayet.

The Austrian Lloyd steamer "Calypso," which has been chartered by the Turkish Government, as reported in my despatch No. 862, Secret, of the 8th instant, sailed to-day for Yembo with a large consignment of arms, powder, and military stores, valued at £ T. 350,000, on board.

In spite of all these preparations, it is not yet quite clear whether or not an expedition will be sent against Ibn Saoud, and it is still possible that the troops despatched to the Red Sea littoral from Aleppo, *viâ* Damascus and Ma'an, will be sent down further south to Hodeidah, to operate against the successful rebellious movement in the Yemen, which would appear to be assuming serious proportions.

I have, &c.,
WALTER TOWNLEY.



Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

CONSUL DEVEY TO SIR N. O'CONOR.

Jeddah,

November 3, 1904.

(No. 97.)

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to state that 13,000 Mauser rifles are to be supplied for the use of the Hejaz troops. Heretofore Martinis only have been used. Also that two batteries of mountain guns and a few Maxim guns are to be sent here additionally.

I have, &c.,

G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

CONSUL DEVEY TO SIR N. O'CONOR.

Jeddah,

November 5, 1904.

(No. 102.)

SIR,

IT is reported that eight battalions of Turkish troops with some heavy artillery were, several weeks ago, sent under General Ahmed Faizi Pasha from Bagdad to help Bin Rashid against Bin Saood, but no doubt accurate information will have reached His Majesty's Embassy on the matter.

I hear also, but cannot guarantee the information, that three battalions of Turkish troops (refer despatch No. 57 of the 17th June) have recently left Medina under General Arif Pasha, which were, for some time, delayed for want of transport camels, and are proceeding to Aneza.

It is rumoured that the Turkish Government intend to make Nejd, after defeating Bin Saood, a declared protectorate, or to annex the country and make it a vilayet of the Turkish dominion.

The people, who support Bin Rashid in Nejd, appear to appreciate the idea of the country being taken by the Turks under their direct control, as the present Ruler, Abdul Aziz-bin-Rashid, has not proved a successful or strong Ruler, and the state of the country has always been disturbed since he came to power. There seems a notion among the vulgar in Hejaz that Great Britain, if anything, rather favours Bin Saood's cause than that of Abdul Aziz.

I have, &c.,

G. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

VICE-CONSUL MONAHAN to MR. TOWNLEY.

Bussorah,

November 20, 1904.

(Telegraphic.) P.

CONTRIBUTIONS are being levied, and have been for the past fortnight—especially from Jews and Mussulmans—for purpose of buying camels to help Amir of Nejd.

£ T.7,500, it is said, are to be levied from this town. Yesterday new Vali arrived.



(*Received with India Office letter No. 51, dated 16th December 1904.*)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [December 3.]

CONFIDENTIAL. Section 1.

No. 1.

Sir E. Monson, to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 3.)

Paris,
2nd December 1904.

(No. 625.)

My Lord,

SOME account is given in the inclosed article from the "Dépêche Coloniale" * of the recent fighting in the centre of Arabia, in the course of which the Wahabi Amir Ben Saoud appears to have inflicted a serious defeat on his rival, Ben Rashid, the Amir of Nejd, and on the Turkish troops, who had been sent to the assistance of the latter.

The victorious Amir is said to have taken prisoners most of the survivors among the enemy, and to intend placing them under the custody of his ally, the Sheikh of Koweit.

The writer expresses the hope that Turkey will not send a further force to perish in the sands of Arabia, and that the Sultan will save the country from British domination by pacific means, that is by recognizing the autonomy of Arabia under his own suzerainty, and under that of the "three other great Mussulman Powers," by whom perhaps he may be understood to mean England, France, and Russia.

I have, etc.,

EDMUND MONSON.

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 5th December 1904.

The following is an extract from a despatch sent by His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basra to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affairés at Constantinople regarding affairs in Nejd, which the former officer has sent to me for information :—

"Many letters were received here * * * * * * * about 7,000 liras will be collected from the whole Vilayet."

2. The British Consular Agent at Mosul reports as follows in one of his letters to me, dated the 22nd ultimo :—

"An order has lately been issued calling out the reserves of this Vilayet The 3rd Battalion has already been assembled from the 24th Firka of the 47th Lowa of the 93rd Alai." (*sic.*)

"This mobilisation is due to the alleged fights going on between Ibn Rashid and Ibn Sabah, because the Turkish Government intends to assist Ibn Rashid by sending him soldiers." (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * * * * *

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 12th December 1904.

* * * * * * * *

2. The British Consular Agent at Mosul reports as follows under date, 30th November 1904 :—

"Have the honour to inform you that some days ago an order was issued from the Grand Vizier at Constantinople to the Vali of Mosul to the effect that about 1,000 camels should be collected from the Vilayet at Mosul for the

* Not printed.



transport of military stores and ammunition. Sheikh Assi, son of Ferhan Pasha, who is now in prison with his followers, has promised to give 100 camels and the Local Government have distributed part of the demand among the various quarters of Mosul including Mahomedans, Christians, and Jews. The rest will be collected from the Vilayet and from the immediate neighbourhood." (Copy to Embassy, Constantinople).

I hear that the Turks contemplate permanently garrisoning El Kassim and that the alleged assistance to Ibn Rashid is merely a pretext to cover their ulterior design. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * * * *

(*Received on the 9th January 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 52, dated 23rd December 1904.*)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [December 5.]

CONFIDENTIAL. Section 3.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received December 5.)

Constantinople,
29th November 1904.

(No. 919. Confidential.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my Despatch No. 862, Secret, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from the Military Attaché to this Embassy, reporting the abandonment of the intention to send troops from Aleppo district to Medina and of the expedition into Nejd.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Mr. Townley.

Constantinople,
28th November 1904.

(No. 72.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the expedition of troops mentioned in my Despatch No. 68 of the 8th instant to be sent from the Aleppo district to Medina by way of Beirut Maan, Akaba, and Yembo has now been indefinitely postponed, as also the intention of sending any force from the Baghdad direction into Nejd.

The only troops to be sent will be some 1,500 recruits from Alexandretta to replace time-expired men from Medina.

The idea of sending any expedition into the Nejd appears to have been definitely abandoned.

The Minister of War remarked that the state of affairs in the interior of Nejd was now quite peaceable.

I have, etc.,

F. R. MAUNSELL, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*

Military Attaché.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 3728 F. D.—16-1-05.—60—R. S. W.



00029 (31)

No. 65, dated Bushire, the 5th (received 14th) February 1905.

From—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. Fraser, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to Foreign Department telegram, dated 23rd January 1905, regarding the attitude to be maintained by the Political Agent at Koweit towards Sheikh Mubarak's relations with Ibn Saood, I have the honour to report that I instructed Captain Knox in the terms of it, and he replies as follows in an informal communication dated 27th January:

"The warning was conveyed by me to Shaikh Mubarak at an interview on the afternoon of 26th instant. He took it very well and though I watched keenly for any sign of disappointment for irritation, I could not detect anything of the kind.

"He assured me that he was abiding by his promise, which he had not forgotten and confirmed his words when he came to see me this morning, by a letter to your address which he asked me to read."

In the letter referred to the Shaikh while freely admitting the fact that Ibn Rashid is his enemy and Ibn Saood his good friend to whom he wishes success, repeats his former promises to abstain from assisting him and maintains that he has steadfastly kept his undertaking hitherto.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 4879 F. D.—18-2-05.—67—T. W. L.





T. P.

From
Foreign Calcutta
6/6 2. 05.

No 519 E.B.

Nejd: Secretary of State for India wires following Mr Townley reported on the 2nd Jan: that he had reliable ~~in~~ information, that all the principal places both in the interior and on coast have been permanently been occupied by Wahabis active policy in the direction of Nejd has been decided upon by Sultan H. B. M's Consul Damascus reported on 20th Jan: that orders had been issued for mobilisation of 24 Battalions in the Damascus Military district four of which had left for their Station

HL





(33)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 407 E.B. 60631

R 338
9.2.05

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 233 E.B., dated 18th January 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secy to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 30th January 1905.

(1) Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 26th December 1904.

(2) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 930, dated 6th December 1904 (Received with letter No. 53, dated 30th December 1904, from Secretary, Political Department, India Office)

(3) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 947, dated 12th December 1904.

G. .I C. P.O.—No. 1877 F. D.- 29-11-1904—3100.—C. J. T

(4)

(with 15.C.)





(4) Telegram from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 1, dated 2nd January 1905 (Received with letter No. 1, dated 6th January 1905 from Secretary, Political Department, India Office)

(5) Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 9th January 1905.





Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 26th December 1904.

20th December.—On the 20th December the late Vali of Baghdad paid me a long private visit. He is going to command the expedition which is being sent by the Turks into the region known as Karim, and he told me that his total force will consist of about 7,000 men, of whom about half are coming from Medina, some from Yemen, and the rest from the Baghdad Vilayet. If these do not suffice, troops will, he said, be brought from the Vilayet of Adana. He said, that on hearing of this expedition, both Ibn Rashid and Ibn Saoud had written to him to say that they wish to make peace, and would accept the Sultan's authority. He said he did not expect there would be any serious fighting because his force would be too strong for any opposition. When I asked him how he proposed to feed so large a force, he replied in a most easy-going way that he supposed they would live on biscuits or tinned foods, but he added that they might occasionally get mutton because there are a good many sheep in that country which, he said, was by no means so barren as generally supposed. He said the place had some perennial streams coming from the Jabal Shamar and that in the neighbourhood of these there was some, and might be much more, cultivation. Also, he said, there were several wells and oases in the neighbouring desert.

He was and has always been most friendly towards me as far as his limited powers and the suspicion of the Turks would allow. He stayed for a long time, and we parted in the most cordial manner. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * * *

22nd December.—Six hundred Infantry (Redifs or Reserves) left to-day by the Turkish steamer *Mosal* on their way down the river. It is said that 300 of these men are going to the Muntafik country and 300 to be stationed at Basrah. These troops have recently arrived from Mosul and Kirkook. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * * *

23rd December.—The Consular Agent at Mosul reports as follows:—"On Sunday, 11th December, the Redifs (Reserve troops) which have been collected from this Vilayat (Mosul) left for Baghdad in four rafts. They are about 800 in number. It is said that about 40 of them deserted the second day after their departure, because the Government had not supplied them with bedding and clothing in this winter season. Some say that these Reserves are going to join the fight which is now going on between Ibn Saoud and Ibn Rashid, others say that they are going against the Sherif of Mecca, who has disobeyed the Government and destroyed the Hedjaz Railway, and that now the Government will have to overcome the Sherif. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * * *

(Received on 16th January 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 53, dated 30th December 1904.)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [12TH DECEMBER.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.—(Received 22nd December.)

Constantinople,
6th December 1904.

(No. 930.)
MY LORD,

With reference to my telegram No. 169 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His

4096 F. D.



Majesty's Consul at Jeddah, containing a Memorandum by the Vice-Consul relative to the Nejd hostilities, in which particulars are given of alleged overtures by a *soi-disant* Russian and French Agent to Bin Rashid.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

CONSUL DEVEY to MR. TOWNLEY.

Jeddah,
19th November 1904.

(No. 109.)

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum by Vice Consul Husain on affairs in Nejd.

I have, etc.,

E. P. DEVEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

MEMORANDUM.

I have come to know from a reliable source that six battalions of Turkish troops have lately been sent from Syria under General Sidki Pasha to Maan, whence they have to march down to Acaba. From Acaba they go by steamer to Yembo, and thence go to Nejd *viâ* Medina. Three battalions ordered to go to Nejd under Arif Pasha, and reported elsewhere, were delayed for want of transport camels. The authorities at Medina were offering up to 6 Turkish liras per camel as camel hire, but the Bedouins were still unwilling to undertake the task. About twelve days ago 1,000 camels sent by Bin Rashid arrived at Medina, but they were not sufficient, and the Medina authorities were endeavouring to secure more camels to despatch the troops. News received up to the 7th instant show that the troops had not left till then, but most probably they have started since.

I have also been informed that a Moslem (Mohiuddin or another name ending with "din"), representing himself as an authorized Agent of Russia and France, had sent a letter to Bin Rashid offering him a subsidy of 1,00,000 dollars a month on his signing a Treaty accepting the protection of either of the two Powers or conjointly of both. It is said that he also mentioned in his letter that Great Britain was trying to construct a railway line from Port Said to Koweit through Nejd which was to jeopardize his authority and country, and therefore the arrangement offered by him, *viz*, to obtain the protection of Russia or France, or both of them, will for ever relieve him of any such danger. In this letter this man had also asked the permission to visit him in order to discuss the proposal, but Bin Rashid refused this permission, and warned him not to enter his country, and also mentioned that it was for the Ottoman Government to decide whether the Port Said-Koweit Railway, if ever it was projected, was permissible or not.

Bin Rashid sent a special messenger with the correspondence that passed between him and this man, with other confidential documents found with Bin Saoud, when, some time ago, he was wounded in a battle and had to run away to Constantinople, and this messenger left Jeddah by the steam-ship "Negileh" on the 7th instant. Bin Rashid had also informed the Vali and the Grand Sharif about this correspondence between him and the alleged Russian and French Agent.



I am also informed that Bin Sabah, the Sheikh of Koweit, was always well inclined towards Bin Saoud, but it appears that they are not on good terms now, as Bin Sabah lately returned some money sent by Bin Saoud for a supply of arms and ammunition, on account of which Bin Saoud was left quite resourceless and had to leave for Riadh.

MUHAMMED HUSAIN.

The 16th November 1904.

Telegram, dated (and received) the 17th January 1905.

From—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

To-day Captain Knox reported that the arrival of Bin Saoud in or near Koweit is imminent *en route* to rendezvous with the Wali of Basrah at Safwan. The presence of Mubarek also is stipulated for, and Mubarek is making preparations to go accompanied by a formidable escort of 1,000 men as a precautionary measure. Mubarek has in connection with this important event, repeatedly enjoined upon Captain Knox the expediency of British protection being extended by us to Nejd and Bin Saoud as being a measure which he and his friends before-mentioned earnestly desired, and failing which Bin Saoud must perforce admit Turkey into Nejd. Separately but simultaneously Mubarek stated that he thought that the British Government should subsidise him for his services. This all conveys the impression that Mubarek and Bin Saoud are using this opportunity to work on our feelings, but a discreet and guarded attitude has been maintained by Captain Knox. At the coming meeting the Turks will doubtless do their utmost to seduce Mubarek who will probably not waver, but the knowledge of the presence of a British Man-of-War at Koweit during the meeting with the Wali, might prove a useful deterrent or source of confidence in Mubarek. H. M. S. *Sphinx* is available; may I ask her to proceed to Koweit until wanted at Bahrein? Captain Knox will not seek a meeting with Bin Saoud, but in the event of his not being able to avoid it, would the Government of India wish any special instructions to be issued to him?

Telegram No. 319-E.B., dated the 23rd January 1905.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Please refer to your telegram, dated the 17th January 1905. Following telegram, dated the 30th December 1904, received from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, is repeated for your guidance. *Begins.*—Please see Lord Ampthill's * * * * * from time to time.—*Ends.* His Excellency the Viceroy's despatch referred to therein mentioned personal warning that Sheikh would not receive support in his entanglement in the interior and latter's promise of implicit compliance with Viceroy's advice. Unless the Sheikh actually visits Koweit Captain Knox should avoid any meeting or communication with him. You are authorised to ask the *Sphinx* to proceed temporarily to Koweit.

Telegram No. 320-E.B., dated the 23rd January 1905.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy, Calcutta,

To—The Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, Colombo.

The following telegram, dated the 17th January 1905, has been received from Major Cox. *Begins.*—Captain Knox reported * * * to be issued to him.—*Ends.* Major Cox has been authorised to ask the *Sphinx* to proceed to Koweit temporarily.



Telegram No. 321-E.B., dated the 23rd January 1905.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy, Calcutta,
To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Koweit and Nejd. Following telegram, dated the 17th January 1905, has been received from Major Cox. *Begins.*—Captain Knox reported * * * * to be issued to him.—*Ends.* Major Cox has been referred for guidance to your telegram, dated the 30th December 1904, and directed not to meet or communicate with Ibn Saoud, unless of course he actually visits Koweit. As proposed by him he has been authorised to call the *Sphinx*.

(Received on 23rd January 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 1, dated 6th January 1905.)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [19th December.]
CONFIDENTIAL. Section 3.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received 19th December.)

(No. 947.)

Constantinople,
12th December 1904.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 932 of the 6th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting the vacillating intentions of the Ottoman Government with regard to the dispatch of a military expedition on a large scale to Nejd, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, stating that certain orders for supplies for troops, said to be on their way from Bagdad to Arabia, had been countermanded.

The belief alluded to by Mr. Richards, that Ibn Saoud is being assisted directly or indirectly by Great Britain, is not limited to Damascus, but is current at Constantinople also.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul Richards to Mr. Townley.

(No. 57.)

Damascus,
21st November 1904.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Abdurrahman Pasha, the Muhafiz (Protector) of the "Hadj," accompanied by Mahmoud Pasha Boozo, a Kurdish Notable of Damascus, and the Emir Ali Pasha, son of the late Emir Abdel-Kader, were sent on the 16th instant to Kuneitra, in the Jolan district, to collect a large number of camels, to be used for the transport of ammunition and provisions, to meet the four battalions of troops now said to be on their way from Bagdad to the Nejd country, having been dispatched to the assistance of the Emir Ibn Reshid in his conflict with Ibn Saoud.



On the following day the Vali received a telegraphic order from Constantinople instructing him to countermand the dispatch of food and ammunition, which he forwarded at once to Abdurrahman Pasha. It is said here that the Turkish military expedition to the Nejd has been abandoned, but you, Sir, are doubtless fully informed on that point from another quarter.

It may interest you, Sir, to know that for some time it was currently reported and generally believed here that Ibn Reshid had defeated Ibn Saoud in the recent conflict, and even now this version of the story finds a certain number of supporters. This will not, perhaps, surprise you very much when I tell you that I have knowledge of the receipt by two men of position here of letters from Ibn Reshid, in both of which he claims to have been victorious.

I hear on good authority that on a recent occasion the Mutessarif of the Hauran (Ahmed Aarifi Bey) told some Bedouin Sheikhs, whom he was trying to induce to supply camels to the Government for the transport of ammunition and provisions for the use of the Turkish troops who had been ordered to march to the assistance of Ibn Reshid, that British soldiers [*sic*] were aiding the traitor, Ibn Saoud, in his conflict with the loyal Emir of the Nejd, and that it was their bounden duty to do all that lay in their power to defeat these foreign machinations, the sole aim and object of which was to gain ultimate possession of the sacred soil of Arabia. I hear that the Sheikhs, although they said nothing at the time, subsequently expressed their satisfaction at the prospect of relief from the Turkish yoke, be the conditions of such relief what they might. The language attributed to the Mutessarif was, it is alleged, used by him during a session of the Idareh Mejliss at Sheikh Miskin (the seat of Government in the Hauran), but this is hardly credible, though it is likely enough that some members of the Mejliss were present when the Bedouin were spoken to. If, on making further inquiries, I am convinced that the report of this incident is thoroughly well founded, I shall take the first opportunity to speak of it to the Vali and protest against the employment by the Mutessarif, in his official capacity, of language of such a mendacious, and inflammatory character. I may add that the fact of British assistance having been rendered to Ibn Saoud and his ally, Ibn Sabah, the Sheikh of Koweit, is fully credited by many people in this city, even in certain official circles.

I have, etc.,

W. S. RICHARDS.

(*Received on 23rd January 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 1, dated 6th January 1905.*)

[Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of 2nd January 1904.]

From Mr. Townley to Foreign Office.

Telegraphic.

(No. 1.)

Constantinople,

2nd January 1905.

Following from Consul at Basrah:—

"A battalion has left Basrah for Nejd *viâ* Bagdad and has been replaced here by Redif soldiers of Mosul Vilayet."

This news would appear to confirm most recent information I have received to the effect that an expedition against Ibn Saoud has been decided upon. Until a few days ago it has been resolved to accept his act of submission.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.



Telegram, dated (and received) the 24th January 1905.

From—His Excellency REAR ADMIRAL G. L. ATKINSON WILLES, Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

On receipt of your telegram No. 320-E. B., of 23rd January 1905, I sent the following to the *Sphinx*. *Begins*.—Proceed at once to Koweit and call at Fao on the 31st January for orders.—*Ends*. I am leaving for Bombay immediately.

G. I. C. P. O.—4096 F. D.—28-1-1905.—60.—W. D'C.



(38)

00036

EXTRACT from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 9th January 1905.

On the 26th December 1904 about 400 troops with six guns and about 300 transport camels arrived at Kerbala and encamped outside the town. They left for Nejef on the 28th December.

On the 30th the Mushir Pasha (late Vali of Baghdad) reached Kerbala and left for Nejef on the 31st.

About 80 of this force are said to have deserted between Baghdad and Kerbala. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).





39

The foregoing copy of a telegram is forwarded to H. M's Resident + Consul General Bushire for his information.

British Consulate
Bussorah Febry 11, 1905. J F Crow[illegible]

Ag British Consul,
Bussorah.





(40)

00037

From
H.B.M's Consul
Busoorah

by Post. d/11-2-05
r/13-2-05

My telegram. Wali met him and the Shaikh of Koweit at a place within the Vilayet Boundary on Feb. 8th and on same day returned Basrah and sent a long telegram to the Palace.

Repeated as usual
(Signed) Monahan





(41)

Confd. File Koweit affairs 53/7 D. 1905

D/14.2.05

No. 55

To, Sh. Mubarak El Sabah

A. C.

Your esteemed letter dated 20. Zil Kadeh 1322 duly reached me and I thank you for it and for your assurances that you have kept and are keeping the promises you gave H.E. the Viceroy.

I had no doubt of it but as important events were passing I asked Captain Knox to remind you. Perhaps it was not necessary to trouble you. (You must excuse me)

المسامحة



May you remain preserved
and Salaam.
Your sincere friend
P. Z. Cox

12/2/05

41

لشيخ مبارك

بعد ابلاغ السلام وصلنا رقيمتكم الكريمة المورخ فى ٢٠ ذى القعدة الحرام ١٣٢٢
فبدى لجنابكم التشكر من ذلك ومن جهة الاطمينان الذي اعطيتم
بانكم حافظتم وستحافظون الوعد الذي وعدتم بحضرة المستطاب
الاجل الافخم المفخم الويسراي دامت شوكته والمحب ما كان لي شبهه في هذا الباب.
ولكن لما كان يحدث يقع حوادث مهمة فلذلك طلبنا من جناب سعادة الجاه
المفخم كپتان ناكس صاحب ان يذكر جنابكم ولعله لم يكن لازمًا
ان نصدع جنابكم بذلك فنرجو من جنابكم المسامحة ولا زلتم
سالمين في اتم المسرة



Confidential.

No. 542- E.B.

R 444 16-2-05

(42)

00038

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 407 - E/B., dated 30th Jany 1905.

By order, etc.,

Chomes Cocks

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

FORT WILLIAM ;

The 7th February 1905.

Telegram from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 7 dated the 8th January 1905. (Received with letter No. 2 dated 13th January 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)





(Received on 30th January 1905 with Political Secretary's letter, No.2 dated 13th January 1905).

Enclosure in F. O. covering letter of 8th January 1905.

Decypher telegram from Mr.Townley, Pera,dated 8-1-05.

No.7.

My telegram No.1 (of January 2).

Following from Consul at Basrah"No. 1 of January 7th.

My telegram No. 70.

Another battalion has left Amara for Baghdad, probably for Nejd."

To

The Marquess of Lansdowne.



(44)

CONFIDENTIAL.

00040

No. 609- E.B.

R 543/23.2.05

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 542-E.B., dated the 7th February 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secy to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 10th February 1905.

(1) Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 16th January 1905.

(2) Article in the "Fath-ul-Basayir", dated the 2nd December 1904.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1877 F. D.—29-11-1904.—3100.—C. J. T.





45

00041

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 16th January 1905.

January 14th.

(From the Vice-Consul at Kerbala).

On the 2nd instant a detachment of about 200 soldiers, with commissariat, tents &c. arrived at Kerbala, and, after stopping three days there, started for Nejef.

The total number of camels is approximately 600. These will probably join their respective taboors (regiments).

Three days ago the Redifs of Kerbala (300 in number) started for Hilla to be distributed from there to Diwania, Samawa and Shamiya. Of the Hilla Redifs one detachment has been sent to Nejef, another to Hindiya, the third, numbering 200 soldiers, arrived in Kerbala and took up their quarters in the barracks in place of the Kerbala Redifs.

The taboor (regiment) of the Kerbala Nizams (Regulars) will also go to Nejef. They are waiting for ammunition &c. to arrive from Baghdad. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

x x x x x x x x x





(46)

00042

Article in the Fath-ul-Basayir, dated the 2nd December 1904.

Nejd.

A man by name Ibrahim has arrived at Bahrein, having been deputed by Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Saood. He has asked the Shaikhs of these Islands to render him pecuniary aid, so that Ibn-i-Saood may be able to fight with Ibn - i - Rashid.

He informed them that fights took place between the two Sheikhs, that ibn-i-Rashid was victorious in the first but was defeated in the second. He also stated that Shaikh Mubarak has extended his authority over the territory between Koweit and Katif, but there are Turkish troops sufficient in numbers in these parts to resist his encroachments. Because the Turkish Government will not allow even a span of land from its territory to pass from their hands. Every nation does the same, and even every single person defends his property and rights.



State Telegram. P. (47)

From His Consul
" Basrah
To. Resdt. Persian Gulf.
Bushire.

Feby. 23rd 1905.

Please refer to my telegram No. 16x ~~of the 16th instant~~ -

Apparently the account of the first meeting is accurate. The account of what passed between Vali and Ibn Sauds father is corroborated by among other evidence the statement made to me by the Vali himself.

At the second meeting I am informed that the Shaikh and Ibn Sauds father asked for the Sultans pardon of the latter in writing. The Vali on Feby 19th sent letters to the Shaikh and on Feby 20th a telegram to Constantinople urgently pressing for a reply to his letters.

It is reported that Muslim with troops is either at or in neighbourhood of Kasim.

Telegram repeated to Assab Bussorah. "Monahan"

A... 25/2





(48)

00044

No. 113, dated Bushire, the 4th (received 14th) March 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., *for* Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with your endorsement No. 609 E. B., dated 10th February 1905, regarding events in Nejd, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter addressed by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject.

No. 7, dated the 18th February 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, ESQ., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah,
To—His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Constantinople.

With reference to my despatches and telegrams respecting the affairs of Nejd and Koweit, I have the honour to submit the following in complete summary of my information.

The Turkish expedition of last summer and autumn in aid of Ibn Rashid into the Kasim District of Nejd seems to have failed entirely. It is commonly said here that not more than 700 Turkish soldiers remain near Hail out of an original expeditionary force of about 2,000, and that there have been not many more in Nejd since the last engagement that near Al Russ of the 27th September last. There would appear to have been a very heavy loss from disease and desertion. Out of six guns one was lost, and three more recaptured from Ibn Saood, had it seems been damaged and made useless. A military informant said, early in December, that there were about 4,000 Turkish troops near Hail which would appear to be a monstrous exaggeration to say the least of it. Perhaps some troops came from Medina, but I have no information about that. At any rate, it is certain that the Turkish troops have done nothing since the abovementioned engagement. An apparent result of the failure was the fact that about the end of last October Fakhri Pasha, acting Vali, wrote, under instructions no doubt from Constantinople, a letter to Abdul Rahman Ibn Faysel, the old father of the person commonly known as Ibn Saood, inviting him to come and settle the affairs of Kasim in a friendly meeting. About the end of November a letter was received from Abdul Rahman by the Vali Mukhlis Pasha. Informants who ought to know state that the letter was in the hand writing of Shaikh Mubarak's Secretary at Koweit which is 300 or 400 miles away from the place where Abdul Rahman was. This is explained by supposing that the letter was sent with all speed from Koweit for signature or that the Shaikh of Koweit had been entrusted with the seal of Abdul Rahman. The letter consisted of professions of loyalty to the Sultan and of requests not to send troops into Kasim because the people of Kasim would have none of Ibn Rashid and there would be bloodshed. About the same time a telegram to the same effect to the palace from Abdul Rahman passed through Bussorah and another to the same effect to the palace from the Kaimakam of Katr Jasim bin Thani who, though called Kaimakam, would appear to be almost independent and to have become a friend of Ibn Saood and Shaikh Mubarak though he was formerly their enemy.

About the middle of November Faik Pasha, Mutessarif of Hasa, was dismissed from his post in consequence perhaps of a telegram to the Vali signed by a Colonel, who has become acting Mutessarif of Hasa, three Majors and the Accountant of Hasa, accusing him of facilitating the despatch of arms and provisions to Ibn Saood, of sheltering his adherents, of exciting Ottoman soldiers and others to disloyalty, and of carrying on a correspondence with Ibn Saood and Mubarak and receiving their emissary. There is, I understand, no foundation for these charges and they certainly appear not to have been brought home to Faik Pasha. He appears to have proved incapable as an Administrator. He held an enquiry into the case of his predecessor,



by him at the recent
interviews at Safwan

P.Z.C.

(49)
00045

Confdl

No. 344
d/ 7.3.05

To
P.A. Koweit

7th March 1905.

Sir.

With reference to your letter No. 243 dated 28th Feb. I have the honour to enclose, for delivery to Shaikh Mubarak after perusal, a letter which I have this day addressed him on the subject of the correct attitude maintained





50

00046

الى الشيخ مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت

فالموجب لتحرير كتاب الودودي هو اهدا أجزل السلام والسؤال عن صحة
حالكم وبعده يكون معلوم جنابكم الشريف بان بحكم من بعد
التوقف كم يوم في البحرين الحال وصلنا بندر بوشهر بالسلامة وكثير
هرنا مسرورين حين وصولنا لما ان حضنا بمكاتيب جناب العالي جاه
المحتشم القبطان ناكس صاحب الشرح من انعقاد المجلس في صفوان
ومن جهة مناسبة السلوك الذي كما بلغنا جنابكم ابديتموه في ذلك
المحضر يعني انكم استقمتم كانه شاهدًا عادلًا بدون حيف
وميل وتجنبتم من الدخول في مواد ابن سعود وامور سياسية نجد
جنابكم ذوا فطانة ودراية وبالاحظوظ العواقب انتا ان شاء الله
تعالى ما ننفعل رفع هذه المواد الى الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليس
وبلا شك حينما يبلغ مسامع الدولة المعظم اليها هذا الخبر منا
هو يكون موجب غاية الاستحسان وسرور حيث انكم اجريتم
على وفق نصيحة الدولة المعزى اليها ومن خصوص البحرين لابد
بلغ جنابكم عن توجهنا هناك حيث اننا من زمن قبل راينا المنامة
البحرين احوالها مغشوشة وعدم الامنية للقاطنين في البلد
وسبب كما بان لنا اهمال الشيخ عيسى بن علي حاكم البحرين في احكامه
واستماعه الى اقوال اهل التزوير المفسدين ولذلك اننا ما تمكنا ان
نترك هذه الاحوال تدوم والحال الحمد لله تحقق لدي جناب الشيخ عيسى
بن علي حاكم البحرين ان الدولة القيصرية مالها مارب الا زرقى البلد
وامنية التجار ورفاهية نفس الشيخ وعلاقته التي هي متعلقة
باتحاد واتفاقه مع الدولة المشار اليها واذا جنابكم تستحسنون
في زيادة الاطلاع من الامور الحادثة في البحرين جناب العالي جاه
القبطان ناكس صاحب يشرح لكم كيفية ما جرى فالمرجو من حسن
سجيتكم وفطانتكم اذا بين جنابكم وجناب الشيخ عيسى من صلات
يكون تنصحونه فيما يصلح شانه هذا ما لزم بيانه لجنابكم ودمتم
حرر في ٢٠ شهر ذي الحجة الحرام سنة ١٣٢٢ مطابق في ٧ شهر مارچ سنة ١٩٠٥

To Mubarak.
Purport attached

7/3/05





(51)

C0047

Translated purport of a letter from Major P.Z.Cox C.I.E., Offg: Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Shaikh Mubarak-es-Subah Chief of Koweit. Dated 7th March 1905.

AFTER COMPLIMENTS :-

Be it known to you that your friend has just returned to Bushire after some days absence at Bahrein, and I am very pleased to learn on my arrival from Captain Knox's letters, news regarding the meetings at Sefwan, and as to the correct attitude which you appear to have adopted in remaining an impartial on looker and in abstaining from involving yourself with the affairs of Ibn Saood and the politics of Nejd.

You are a wise man and your sight is long.

I shall not omit to inform Government and doubt not that they will receive with approval and gratification the news that you have been guided by their advice in this matter.

With regard to Bahrein you will perhaps have heard of my going there.

Two months ago I found that there was disorder in Manama and no security for subjects and this was due to Shaikh Esa's government being slack and perhaps also to

the



They then fought with Bin Rashid and the soldiers.

He then went on to say "When Your Excellency sent for me, I came at your orders. I will not have Bin Rashid interfering in Nejd affairs and will fight him if he comes with soldiers. I will not resist the Turkish Government, provided Bin Rashid is kept away from me and my people. You have, however, no right and no interest in our countries and our people hate the soldiers"

6. The Wali leaves.

His Excellency then went off saying that he must communicate with Constantinople.

7. Second Interview.

On the night of the 14th February, His Excellency returned, with a telegram from Constantinople, to Gishaniya a few miles on the Koweit side of Sefwan, where the two Sheikhs were encamped.

8. Terms of Settlement.

(*a*) The first point in the telegram was that Bin Rashid was to have nothing to do with Nejd affairs.

(*b*) The second point. The Turkish Government will seize El-Kasim (*sic*). If this was really the wording of the telegram it is rather curious reading. To this Bin Saood made no objection.

(*c*) The third point. Shaikh Mubarak must be a party to the agreement.

9. Sheikh Mubarak's Opinion.

To the third condition Sheikh Mubarak flatly refused to consent. He told His Excellency that the people of Nejd were a seditious turbulent lot, that he did not stop them having trade relations with his town of Koweit, but that he kept only one man at El-Kasim. He pointed out how the newspapers had been busy with his name, saying that he had been sending English guns, money and provisions to Nejd, which was utterly untrue and that he refused to have anything to do with Nejd politics.

As soon as the Conference was over, he would go to Hageyja and Abdur Rahman to Jahra and thence to his own place. Their ways lay apart. Abdur Rahman was his friend and Bin Rashid his enemy, and he hoped with all his heart that Abdur Rahman would get the better of Bin Rashid.

That, as regards the agreement, he hoped that matters would go well, but that, if they did not, His Excellency must settle the question with Bin Saood. Sheikh Mubarak would have nothing to do with it and was not in any way responsible.

10. British protection.

The question of British protection was discussed and Sheikh Mubarak was asked by His Excellency to state what his desires were and His Excellency would satisfy them—all of them.

Sheikh Mubarak replied that he wanted nothing and, as regards abandoning the British,

"If you were to give me all Bussorah I would not do it. The relations between us, especially of trade and friendship, are of long standing and what you ask is impossible. Nothing new has taken place. You have never had any authority in my town and I have committed no breach of friendship against your Government. I have come here and brought Bin Saood at your request and at great expense to myself. This alone is proof of my friendly feelings towards you. All my affairs and my vessels are protected by the English. If I ventured on the course of action you propose, my subjects would not support me and would leave me for the English."



[*Confidential.*]

No. 126, dated Bushire, the 12th (received 21st) March 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to forward copies of a letter and enclosure received from the Political Agent, Koweit, in which he reports Sheikh Mubarak's version of the recent interviews between Ibn Saood and the Wali of Bussorah.

No. 243, dated 23rd February.

I append at the same time purport of a letter which I addressed to Sheikh Mubarak in this connection on 7th instant.

2. I thought it as well to include in my letter a brief incidental reference to Bahrein affairs.

No. 243, dated the 28th February 1905.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, Political Agent, Koweit,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to forward herewith the notes taken by me at an interview with Sheikh Mubarak on the morning of the 28th February at which the Sheikh informed me of what took place at the recent meeting at Sefwan.

2. I venture to suggest, for your consideration, whether some reassuring communication might not be addressed to the Sheikh approving the correct attitude taken up by him—according to his own statement—on this occasion. This would, I think, be appreciated.

Notes of interview with Sheikh Mubarak on the morning of the 28th February at which he informed me of what took place at the recent interviews between His Excellency the Wali of Bussorah and Sheikh Mubarak us Subah and Sheikh Abdur Rahman bin Feysal bin Saood at Sefwan.

1. PRELIMINARY.

Sheikh Mubarak began by saying that the work was not at all to his taste and that the weather had been very cold and there was no food for the horses and that generally he had come back dissatisfied.

2. FIRST MEETING.

The first meeting took place on the 6th February.

3. INTERVIEW WITH SHEIKH MUBARAK.

It appears that His Excellency the Wali of Bussorah first saw Sheikh Mubarak, and the Sheikh told him that he had come as requested and had brought Abdur Rahman bin Feysal bin Saood. He added that he had no concern with the affairs of Nejd and must now leave His Excellency to settle matters with Bin Saood.

4. INTERVIEW WITH BIN SAOOD.

Bin Saood was then summoned and presented his case. He said that he and his friends had petitioned the Ottoman Government against Bin Rashid and his tyranny, but no answer was returned to their petitions.

Then they took the law into their own hands and had crushed Bin Rashid.

The result was that Bin Rashid returned with soldiers and intercepted all the messengers Bin Saood was sending to the Sultan, and Abdur Rahman bin Saood could get no redress.



They then fought with Bin Rashid and the soldiers.

He then went on to say "When Your Excellency sent for me, I came at your orders. I will not have Bin Rashid interfering in Nejd affairs and will fight him if he comes with soldiers. I will not resist the Turkish Government, provided Bin Rashid is kept away from me and my people. You have, however, no right and no interest in our countries and our people hate the soldiers."

6. THE WALI LEAVES.

His Excellency then went off saying that he must communicate with Constantinople.

7. SECOND INTERVIEW.

On the night of the 14th February, His Excellency returned, with a telegram from Constantinople, to Gishaniya a few miles on the Koweit side of Safwan, where the two Sheikhs were encamped.

8. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.

(a) The first point in the telegram was that Bin Rashid was to have nothing to do with Nejd affairs.

(b) The second point. The Turkish Government will seize El-Kasim (*sic*). If this was really the wording of the telegram it is rather curious reading. To this Bin Saood made no objection.

(c) The third point. Shaikh Mubarak must be a party to the agreement.

9. SHEIKH MUBARAK'S OPINION.

To the third condition Sheikh Mubarak flatly refused to consent. He told His Excellency that the people of Nejd were a seditious turbulent lot, that he did not stop them having trade relations with his town of Koweit, but that he kept only one man at El-Kasim. He pointed out how the newspapers had been busy with his name, saying that he had been sending English guns, money and provisions to Nejd, which was utterly untrue and that he refused to have anything to do with Nejd politics.

As soon as the Conference was over, he would go to Hageyja and Abdur Rahman to Jahra and thence to his own place. Their ways lay apart. Abdur Rahman was his friend and Bin Rashid his enemy, and he hoped with all his heart that Abdur Rahman would get the better of Bin Rashid.

That, as regards the agreement, he hoped that matters would go well, but that, if they did not, His Excellency must settle the question with Bin Saood. Sheikh Mubarak would have nothing to do with it and was not in any way responsible.

10. BRITISH PROTECTION.

The question of British protection was discussed and Sheikh Mubarak was asked by His Excellency to state what his desires were and His Excellency would satisfy them—all of them.

Sheikh Mubarak replied that he wanted nothing and, as regards abandoning the British,

"If you were to give me all Bussorah I would not do it. The relations between us, especially of trade and friendship, are of long standing and what you ask is impossible. Nothing new has taken place. You have never had any authority in my town and I have committed no breach of friendship against your Government. I have come here and brought Bin Saood at your request and at great expense to myself. This alone is proof of my friendly feelings towards you. All my affairs and my vessels are protected by the English. If I ventured on the course of action you propose, my subjects would not support me and would leave me for the English."



11. BASH-KATIB.

The Wali then asked him if he had not written to the Bash-Katib at Constantinople and Sheikh Mubarak denied having done so.

N.B.—I do not understand this last remark. Possibly Bussorah or Constantinople can explain.

S. G. K.

12. GENERAL REMARKS AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH THE SHAIKH.

All the above was said slowly and steadily and was evidently the impression which Sheikh Mubarak wished to convey to the British Government of what had taken place at Sefwan. It had been, I should say, carefully studied and rehearsed.

TURKISH SOLDIERS IN NEJD.

I asked Sheikh Mubarak what was going to be done about soldiers. He said that men were to be posted in Anezya and Boreyda, but not at Riadh. Abdur Rahman would not allow that. He also said that the Mushir at Baghdad was under orders to proceed and settle the administration, but that he refused to go, pleading sickness. I have heard this from another source.

R. I. M. S. *INVESTIGATOR.*

I mentioned that the *Investigator* was expected shortly to complete the work she had begun. The Sheikh made no objection, but said that the Wali had attacked him on this point also, when he explained that the *Investigator* was merely concerned with collecting information about the harbour and ensuring the safety of vessels, a laudable occupation to which no one could reasonably take exception.

M. GOGUYER'S RIFLES.

I then said that I had already some days back informed Shaikh Jabir-bin-Mubarak that M. Goguyer had sent a boom full of rifles to Koweit from Maksat. The Sheikh said that such a thing was quite impossible, that he had turned Goguyer out of Koweit, and he had since been writing scurrilous articles to the newspapers about him, and that, if such a thing came to his knowledge, he would promptly confiscate the entire cargo.

I thanked the Sheikh for all the information he had given me and expressed my pleasure at his return to Koweit. The Sheikh at once took up the same tune and was unusually profuse in professions of friendship and attachment.

He told me that travelling in the desert would be delightful in a few days' time, that he was going out hawking to Sirra and beyond and hoped that I would accompany him.

I mention these latter trifles as I consider them important indications of the Sheik's attitude at the present juncture. Mubarak is not gushing as a rule, and I think that he is distinctly nervous as to the view the British may take of his Sefwan policy.

Translated purport of a letter from MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to Sheikh Mubarak-es-Subah, Chief of Koweit. Dated the 7th March 1905.

After Compliments.—Be it known to you that your friend has just returned to Bushire after some days absence at Bahrein, and I am very pleased to learn on my arrival from Captain Knox's letters, news regarding the meetings at Sefwan, and as to the correct attitude which you appear to have adopted in remaining an impartial on-looker and in abstaining from involving yourself with the affairs of Ibn Saood and the politics of Nejd.

You are a wise man and your sight is long.



I shall not omit to inform Government and doubt not that they will receive with approval and gratification the news that you have been guided by their advice in this matter.

With regard to Bahrein you will perhaps have heard of my going there.

Two months ago I found that there was disorder in Manama and no security for subjects, and this was due to Sheikh Esa's Government being slack, and perhaps also to the promptings of bad advisers, and this could not properly be allowed to continue.

Now thank God Shaikh Esa has come to realise that Government only wish prosperity to his State and security for all, and that his interests are bound up in preserving concord with the Sarkar.

If it interests you Captain Knox will tell you further details of recent events there, and I hope from your wisdom and friendliness that when corresponding with Sheikh Esa, you will give him profitable advice.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 6070 F. D.—24-8-1905.—67.—N. N. B.



[*Confidential.*]

No. 135, dated Bushire, the 12th (received 21st) March 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with this office letter No. 113, dated 4th March 1905, regarding events in Nejd, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter* addressed by His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject.

* No. 8, dated 24th February 1905.

No. 8, dated the 24th February 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah,
To—His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires, Constantinople.

R.N. 642

With reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 18th instant, respecting affairs of Koweit and Nejd, I have the honour to report further what follows.

As to the expedition of last summer and autumn my military informant now says that he was mistaken in his statement that last December 4,000 Turkish soldiers were still near Hail. He says that the real number was about 2,400, that the original expedition consisted of exactly that number of infantry, *viz.*, four battalions of 600 men each with six guns; that only about 300 men were lost and that some reinforcements had probably come from Medina. I give his statements merely for what they may be worth. According to what is generally believed here they are not truthful. The impression here still is that only 600 or 700 men were left near Hail, and nothing appears to be known of re-inforcements from Medina.

As to the numbers of the expedition, which is now on its way to or has already reached Kasim (the district of Aneyza, Boreyda, and Al Russ), I have no precise information, they have perhaps been reported from Baghdad. The following telegram, dated 1st January 1905, was sent by the Mushir at Nejef to the Vali, Bussorah :—"There are 16 battalions now being collected at Nejef: 8 battalions are now being sent on the expedition; to provide for the needs of these 8 battalions before they move one month's pay is to be given to each battalion according to Imperial Irade of 28th December and special bills or orders for payment are being sent to the Baghdad and Bussorah Vilayets; 100,000 piastres is the share of the Bussorah Vilayet: please draw this amount from the Bussorah treasury and send it by telegraph order."

On the 13th instant the following telegram was sent from the Ministry of Finance, Constantinople, to the Defterdar (treasurer), Bussorah :—"For four battalions of the 6th Army Corps about to be sent to Kasim deficiencies of one month's pay and provisions amounting to 87,960 piastres. Send of this amount as already ordered the part allotted to the battalions going from Bussorah Vilayet." I do not clearly understand in this second telegram whether the 87,960 piastres means one month's pay and rations for four battalions and whether any of these four battalions were fresh ones or they had already all been collected at Nejef. I have heard precisely of only two battalions having been sent from Bussorah Vilayet as I have had the honour to report in my telegrams No. 70 of December 31st, 1904, and No. 1 of January 7th, 1905.

I have heard vaguely that some troops, perhaps two battalions, were sent from the Muntefik district of the Vilayet, and that there was an extraordinary number of desertions on that occasion. However, it seems clear from the two telegrams that it was intended to send on the expedition at least 8 battalions infantry, and I hear also of 6 guns and about 400 mule cavalry. I have heard that the force or part of it was about a fortnight ago at Wakisah wells about 100 miles on the road from Nejef to Kasim, but I have heard practically



nothing further of its march since a part of it left Nejef towards the end of January, parts of it having, it seems, left earlier.

The Vali has now informed me that the expedition is to be a peaceful one and that the Mutesarrif and other officials for Kasim will follow as they have been accepted by Ibn Saood's father, Abdur Rahman, in the two meetings of the 8th and 13th instant, respectively, which I have reported. The Vali says that Abdur Rahman requested of him the favour of an interview complaining that Ibn Rashid was listened to by the Turkish Government, while he himself though loyal had never been heard; that he, the Vali, obtained the necessary permission from Constantinople and the meetings took place accordingly with a satisfactory result. My information, however, of the correctness of which I have no doubt, is that the first overtures came from the Acting Vali Fakhri Pasha at the end of October as I have reported. The unsubmissive telegram from Abdur Rahman reported in my despatch above referred to was not in reply to the letter of Fakhri Pasha. This telegram and the one from the Kaimakam of Katr, reported in the same despatch, were handed into the Fao Office on the 3rd/18th November, were kept in Bussorah about a fortnight during which time the Vali was no doubt telegraphically corresponding with Constantinople, and were finally sent on to the Palace about the end of November. Abdur Rahman's equally unsubmissive letter, reported in the same despatch, was received here on the 5th or 6th December and may have been in reply to Fakhri Pasha's letter though I have not heard that it contained anything about the proposed meeting. Further correspondence passed with the details of which I am unacquainted, and about the beginning or middle of January a letter was received by the Vali from Shaikh Mubarak of Koweit asking about the proposed meeting of the Shaikh and Abdur Rahman with the Vali. Abdur Rahman came to or near Koweit, and sent a message to the Vali proposing a meeting on the Koweit boundary. The Vali wanted the meeting place to be near the town of Bussorah, but the Shaikh and Abdur Rahman seem to have objected that there was no good pasture near the town for the many horses and camels which they had with them. The two were also no doubt afraid of Arab enemies and Turkish authorities. The telegram of the 21st from the Mushir at Nejef to the Vali here, of the *en clair* part of which I have telegraphed the substance, probably contained something about the meeting. The *en clair* Arabic part consists of Koranic phrases promising in the Sultan's name pardon for past offences and exhorting Mussalmans to beware of infidels, accept good Government and not fight among themselves. This was put *en clair* probably, because there is no cypher for such Arabic words. It has not as yet so far as I know been sent to Nejd or Kasim. The Mushir wanted copies of it to be given to two partizans of Ibn Saood for transmission to Kasim, but they had a few days before been sent off in exile to Constantinople as I have reported in my despatch above referred to. He wished another copy to be given to some partizans of Ibn Rashid, but they refused to take it. No trustworthy person could, I believe, be found to take charge of it. It was, I believe, sent to Koweit. The Shaikh of Koweit's telegram of January 29th to the Vali says:—"Abdur Rahman will be here in six days. I will inform you of his coming and he will confirm what I have said about his loyalty." The Shaikh, however, himself signed this "Ruler of Koweit and Chief of its tribes." Finally the two meetings took place, February 8th and 13th, under orders from Constantinople, each at about 30 miles distance from Bussorah town within the Vilayet of Bussorah. The second meeting place was a few hours away from the first, but no nearer Bussorah town. The Shaikh and Abdur Rahman were wandering about for pasturage, and, it is said, hawking. With the Vali there were present at the meetings only the Mektubji (Secretary) and the Assistant Secretary of the Vilayet. The latter has been talking to several persons of whom one has reported his account of the first meeting to my dragoman and from another a similar account of the first meeting has reached my dragoman indirectly through a third person. The Vali has given much the same account to me. It appears then that Abdur Rahman expressed readiness to accept civil officials, a Mutesariff and so forth, and garrisons in Kasim though he protested against expense being entailed by garrisons; but he will have none of Ibn Rashid's interference. The Vali has told some one here that he, the Vali, reproved

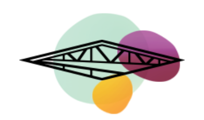


Shaikh Mubarak for signing himself "Ruler and Chief", but that the Shaikh would not agree to signing as Kaimakam. The Vali after the first meeting expressed himself to my dragoman in violent language against Mubarak as a "pig", who would not allow the telegraph to Koweit or a postal service to pass through his territory to the south.

I have not been able to learn what passed at the second meeting. Immediately after it the Vali sent to Mubarak a written message, and it, probably from what I hear, contained the written Imperial pardon for Abdur Rahman and his son. The Vali has telegraphed to the Shaikh (addressing him as Kaimakam of Koweit) asking urgently for a reply to letters meaning no doubt to this message which may also have contained something else of importance.

I would add that it does not appear that the Vali gave any decisive answer in the meetings or that there has been any result.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 6069 F. D.—24-3-1906.—67—B. S. B.





(56)

00052

Confidential. BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 798 Date 16.3.05 PERSIAN G'ULF.

No. 939 -E.B.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 609-E.B dated the 10th February 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Asstt: Secretary to the Govt: of India.

15/3

Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 4th March 1905.

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 920 (Confidential) dated the 29th November 1904 and enclosure.

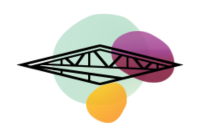
(Received with letter No. 3, dated the 20th January 1905 from the Secretary Political Department, India Office).

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 2 (Confidential) dated the 2nd January 1905.

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 9, dated the 3rd January 1905 and enclosures.

(Received with letter No. 4, dated the 27th January 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)





(57)
00053

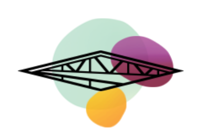
Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for week ending the 23rd January 1905.

Letter from the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, No. 68, dated the 25th January 1905 with enclosure.

Extracts from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for week ending 30th January 1905.

Telegrams from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne Nos 26 and 27 dated, respectively, the 27th and 31st January 1905.

(Received with letter No. 5, dated the 3rd February 1905 from Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)





Telegram, dated the 11th (received 12th) February 1905.

From—J. Monahan, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

Please refer to my telegram No. 6. On the 8th February the Wali of Basrah met him (Mushir Nejef?) and the Sheikh of Koweit at a place within the Vilayat boundary, and returned to Basrah on the same day and sent to the palace a long telegram.

Sent to His Britannic Majesty's Minister at Constantinople and to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(Received on 6th February 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 3, dated the 20th January 1905.)

[Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of 5th December 1904.]

Consul Devey to Marquess of Lansdowne.

No. 1.

(Political.)

Jeddah,
19th November 1904.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Memorandum on affairs in Nejd which has been sent in duplicate to His Majesty Ambassador at Constantinople.*

* *Vide* Persia Print, 12th December, Section 2.
(Sent to India, 30th December.)

I have, etc.,

G. P. DEVEY,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul.

(Received on 6th February 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 3, dated the 20th January 1905.)

[Enclosures in Foreign Office covering letter of 8th December 1904.]

Mr. Townley to Marquess of Lansdowne.

No. 920.

(Confidential.)

Constantinople,
29th November 1904.

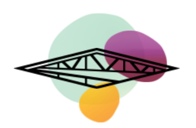
My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 862 Secret of the 8th instant, I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from the Military Attaché to this Embassy respecting the despatch of rifles by the steamship *Colypso* to the Hedjaz and Basrah, the loading of the Steamship *Abdul Kader* with military stores and the despatch of rifles to Salonica to arm the slaves.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

4990 F. D.



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MAUNSELL to MR. TOWNLEY.

Constantinople,
28th November 1904.

SIR,

I have the honour to report that the Mauser rifles mentioned in my despatch No. 68 of the 8th instant are to be despatched as follows:—

Thirteen thousand to arm the Hedjaz Division to be landed at Jeddah, and the remainder 27,000 to arm the 6th Army Corps and to be landed at Basrah.

These rifles are of the large calibre Mauser (9·5 m.m.) a rather antiquated pattern, different from those in the hands of the troops in European Turkey, but better than the Martinis which the troops in the Hedjaz and the 6th Corps have at present.

The Austrian Lloyd steamer *Colypso* was chartered and loaded the rifles and guns at Topkhane Arsenal, the ammunition from Zeitun Burme and some military stores and clothing at Harem Ishelesi and left on the 23rd instant.

Before leaving the Company insisted on an outstanding claim of £9,000, due to them, being settled, which led to some delay.

The vessel has now put into Smyrna damaged and the cargo will be transhipped to another steamer of the same Company.

I understand the Sultan is extremely angry at the proceedings of the Company and at the subsequent breakdown of the vessel.

The *Abdul Kader* belonging to a certain Haji Evlia Effendi, who trades with the Red Sea, is also loaded with ammunition and military stores for the Hedjaz, but she has been kept waiting in port for ten days now without receiving any orders to start, regardless of Haji Evlia Effendi's repeated protests at the Palace.

Another steamer of the Deutsche Levante Linia is now loading Mauser rifles at the Topkhane Arsenal for Salonica, wherewith to arm the slave or 2nd class Redif Divisions of the 3rd Army Corps.

These are of the small calibre (6·5 m.m.) similar to those in the hands of the other troops there.

I have, etc.,

F. H. MAUNSELL, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
Military Attaché.

(Received on 13th February 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 4, dated the 27th January 1905.)

KOWEIT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[5TH JANUARY 1905.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received 5th January.)

India Office,
4th January 1905.

The Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Brodrick, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary, Simla, dated the 24th November 1904, relative to Nejd affairs.



Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Political Resident, Persian Gulf, to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Bushire,
29th October 1904.

(Not printed.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Political Agent, Koweit, to Political Resident, Persian Gulf.

(Confidential.)

Koweit,
17th October 1904.

(Not printed.)

(*Received on 13th February 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 4, dated 27th January 1905.*)

PERSIA AND ARABIA.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[9TH JANUARY.]
SECTION 2.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE.—(Received 9th January.)

No. 2.
(Confidential.)

Constantinople,
2nd January 1905.

MY LORD,

With reference to my telegram No. 1 of to-day's date, informing your Lordship that His Majesty's Acting Consul at Basrah has telegraphed that a battalion of troops from that place have been dispatched to Nejd *viá* Baghdad, I have the honour to state that this report from Mr. Monahan confirms the latest information that has reached me on this subject.

I am assured on very good authority that, after long deliberations at the Palace, the Sultan has finally decided upon an active policy in the Nejd direction, and has ordered that a new and more powerful expedition shall be prepared without loss of time, for the ostensible purpose of assisting Ibn Rashid to crush Ibn Saoud and his Wahabi followers.

The ulterior intention is that the expedition shall, when it has achieved its object, permanently occupy all the principal places, both on the coast and in the interior of the peninsula, after removing all the local Chiefs to Constantinople.

That the expedition is to be conducted on a large scale is shown by the fact that Ibrahim Pasha, of the Milli, has been ordered by telegraph to collect and forward to Baghdad 6,000 camels to serve for the transport of the stores and ammunition.

Mr. Monahan has also informed me by telegram, dated the 29th December 1904, that the Acting Vali of Basrah invited Ibn Saoud to that place in a friendly letter some two months ago, and that, about a month ago, Ibn Saoud's father sent a telegram to the Sultan (possibly the communication contained in my despatch No. 862-Secret, of the 8th November 1904) professing loyalty, but claiming ownership of Kassim, and deprecating the dispatch of troops, which would cause bloodshed.

Mr. Monahan adds that the semi-independent Kaimakam of Katr also sent a telegram in the same sense to the Sultan about the same time, in which



he said that the people of Katr were hostile to Ibn Rashid, and that, if Turkish troops were sent, the country would become like Koweit.

The Mutessarif of Hassa, Faik Pasha, was dismissed, Mr. Monahan reports, some five or six weeks ago, on the score, it is said, that he was sending provisions to Ibn Saoud. It is announced that Nedjib Bey, an ex-Mutessarif of El Bassan, has been appointed to replace him.

I have very good reason to believe that it was fully intended, up to a very few days ago, to accept the submission which Ibn Saoud had made by telegram addressed direct to the Sultan, and that instructions were sent to Baghdad and Basrah to the effect that his submission had been accepted, and that the preparations for the military expedition against him were to be discontinued. I do not know what has caused the Sultan to suddenly change his mind, and it would be no matter for surprise should His Majesty again listen to wiser counsels. Well informed military circles are fully alive to the magnitude of the task to be undertaken, and are well aware of the difficulties to be overcome in dispatching and maintaining a large military force in the inhospitable regions from which the victorious Egyptian expedition had to depart in 1819.

The Turkish Government have, moreover, a formidable undertaking before them in the suppression of the revolt in the Yemen, which would appear, from all accounts, to be assuming such alarming proportions that it will tax all their available resources to cope with it.

A rumour is current here that Sana'a has fallen into the hands of the rebels, but I have no confirmation of such an event from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Hodeida, though, as I have had the honour to inform Your Lordship in a previous despatch, the capital of the province has for some weeks been cut off from communication with the coast.

I have, since writing the above, received further information, which confirms the report that the Ottoman Government have decided to send an expedetion against Ibn Saoud. My informant tells me that it has been represented to the Sultan by the Amir of Mecca that the aggressions of Ibn Saoud are due solely to foreign instigation, and that, unless they are promptly checked, the Wahabi encroachments may even extend as far as Mecca. It is reported that Marshal Feizi Pasha has been put at the head of the expedition which is to start from Baghdad shortly, if it has not already done so. It is, perhaps, worth noting that in all the communications which reach me about Ibn Saoud, the name of Mubarak-es-Sabah, Sheikh of Koweit, is always associated with that of the Wahabi Chief.

I have, etc.,
WALTER TOWNLEY.

(*Received on 13th February 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 4, dated 27th January 1905.*)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [9TH JANUARY.]
CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 4.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.—(Received 9th January).

Constantinople,
3rd January 1905.

(No. 9.)
MY LORD,

With reference to my despatch No. 9 of yesterday's date on the subject of the state of affairs in Nejd, I have the honour to forward, to Your Lordship herewith, a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad, reporting further respecting the projected expedition against Ibn Saoud.

I have, &c.,
WALTER TOWNLEY.



Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

CONSUL-GENERAL NEWMARCH to MR. TOWNLEY.

Baghdad,
28th November 1904.

(No. 75.)

SIR,

In continuation of my despatch No. 72, dated the 12th instant, I have the honour to submit, for your information, the inclosed extract from my diary to the Government of India regarding the projected expedition against Ibn Saoud.

I have, &c.,
L. S. NEWMARCH, *Major.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Extract from Diary to Government of India for week ending the 28th November 1904.

The Vice-Consul at Kerbala reports as follows about the recent expedition against Ibn Saoud:—

A belief has long been entertained here by the public that the four regiments originally sent in support of Ibn Rashid had been entirely annihilated, and that Ibn Rashid had sustained a serious defeat. The belief has lately been confirmed by the report of two privates who escaped from their regiment at Jabal, and arrived here about ten days ago.

They say that their force experienced great hardships and hunger while *en route* to and in Jabal, and that a few days after their arrival the Amir (Ibn Rashid) ordered them to prepare for an attack on the enemy.

The Amir placed the Turkish troops and their officers in front, and his own men behind, the combined forces then entered Ibn Saoud's territory, and, without much difficulty or fighting, captured four towns, compelling Ibn Saoud and his followers to retreat.

After that, Ibn Rashid received a letter from one Ibn Barsam in Borreida (members of the Basram family are found in Basrah and Syria as large traders), telling him that he had contrived certain plans for the delivery of the place into his hands, and asking him to go there with his forces as soon as possible.

The Amir was deceived, and started for Borreida, where he was surprised and attacked by Ibn Saoud.

The Amir and his men, who were in the rear, escaped, with about 300 officers and men, because they knew the roads, but the others remained fighting, and were either killed or captured.

All reports combine in giving an exceedingly pathetic account of the Turks in Ibn Rashid's hands at Jabal; they are said to be severely treated and scantily maintained.

Two officers—a Mir Alai and a Colonel—were killed by the Amir in Jabal because they refused to obey the Amir's orders, and make a second invasion after their defeat.

The officers here are much incensed against the Amir, but dare not express their feelings.

The Amir has reported the occurrence to Constantinople, and fresh troops have been ordered to support him.

The new expedition will consist of four regiments of infantry, each about 300 strong. Twelve to sixteen guns with men and officers forming one regiment, and perhaps one regiment of mule riders. These six regiments will be raised from Baghdad, Amara, Kerballa, Hilla and Karkook, and Faizee Pasha, the late acting Wali of Baghdad, will be in command.

The Government has sanctioned £T.5,000 for the necessary expenses, but the late Wali has demanded £T.30,000.

4990 F. D.



The reserves which have been mobilized are for the purpose of replacing the soldiers.

Faizee Pasha and these troops are to meet at Nejef, and then follow the route taken by pilgrims to Jabal and Mecca; the transport will be by means of camels, which will be supplied by the Amir.

Besides these troops it is said that another force will be sent from Hedjaz, both to meet at Jabal.

It is said that Faizee Pasha is very unwilling to go, and has tried to get off this unexpected call to duty, but has failed to do so. He then asked to be allowed to proceed to Damascus with his troops, and from there, taking six more regiments, proceed to Jabal; this also has been refused.

Faizee Pasha is said to have appointed one Fahad, son of Abdul Mihsin, formerly official Sheikh of the Aunaiza tribe, to accompany him, but, on the request of the Amir, who is on bad terms with Fahad, he was dismissed, and another man has been appointed.

This Fahad is said to be a friend of Ibn Saoud, and he was re-appointed to the Chieftainship of the Aunaiza tribe in order to win him over; what exactly was the object is not known.

The Turkish officials, and many others, are looking on these disturbances with the belief that the English are at the bottom of it all.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 23rd January 1905.

* * * * *

20th January.

Faizee Pasha, the Commander of the expedition to Nejd left Nejef on the morning of the 20th January.

It is said here that Sadoon is raising his head again and becoming very defiant: but I have no definite news of him. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

* * * * *

23rd January.

The Vice-Consul at Kerballa in a letter, dated 13th January 1905, reports as follows:—

"In continuation of my report No. 9, dated the 7th January 1905, I beg to say that on the 10th instant, ammunition, etc., with 200 camels came here, and on the 12th the tabour of about 560 soldiers that was waiting for the ammunition started for Nejef. On the 11th instant two other detachments of about 350 soldiers under the command of Bimbashi (Major) Amin Yamin Effendi arrived here. They too had 60 camels with them. The strength of Amin Yamin's tabour is said to be 1,100 out of which 350 have arrived and the rest have started from Muntafik. Up to this time about 1,000 camels have gone from Kerballa to Nejef."

"It is said that the Mushir has encouraged the soldiers by promising that they would not have to march more than three hours every day and that he would provide one camel for every three soldiers."

"When the Redif of Kerballa reached Diwania, there was, it is said, an altercation between the soldiers and an Arab tribe called Al Shabana, in which one soldier was killed and two wounded. The soldiers wanted to retaliate but their rifles were rusted and would not work."

"Three days ago a tabour of 900 soldiers with 250 camels has gone from Hindiya to Nejef."

* * * * *



No. 68, dated Baghdad, the 25th January 1905.

From—MAJOR L. S. NEWMARCH, Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General, Baghdad,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to submit herewith information which I have received confidentially regarding the details of Turkish troops lately assembled at Nejef for the expedition into Central Arabia.

The troops sent to Nejef are as under—

Mushir	Faizi Pasha.
Ferik	Hajji Nejim Pasha.
Meer Alai	Serim Beg.
Kaimmakam	Mazhar Beg.

Infantry.

From Amara, 41st Regiment, 1st Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Amin Emin Effendi	650
From Shatra, 44th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Kadir Effendi	600
From Basrah, 42nd Regiment, 4th Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Osman Effendi	650
From Kerbala, 44th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Amin Agha	640
From Hindiya, 41st Regiment, 2nd Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Mahmood Effendi	600
From Baghdad, 45th Regiment, 1st Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Ahmed Agha	600
From Diwaniya, 48th Regiment, 4th Battalion, rank and file under Bimbashi Hassan Effendi	600
From Nasariya, 12th Battalion, Riflemen, rank and file under Bimbashi Tewfik Effendi	600

They are accompanied by a Regimental band.

Cavalry.

Thirty-fifth Regiment, 150 rank and file, under Kola Aghasi Fehm Effendi.

Artillery.

Four Field and two Mountain guns, 150 men, under Kola Aghasi-Kadir Effendi.

Ammunition.

Two hundred and sixty boxes rifle cartridges (each box contains 1,000 cartridges, each battalion also took with them 40 boxes of cartridges.

One hundred and twenty boxes artillery ammunition conveyed on 60 camels.

Commissariat.

The following supplies, calculated to last for six months, have gone with the troops:—

Flour, Wheat, Rice, Ghee, Buxom (toasted bread), Barley, Straw, Sheep.

Transport.

1,800 Camels from Baghdad,
400 Camels from Nejef,
1,000 Camels from Ibn Reshid.

It is said that Ibn Reshid sent 2,000 camels to be laden with provisions on his own account and that Faizi Pasha appropriated half the camels for his men to ride on. The other half were used as transport animals.



P.S.—Liwa (Major-General) Yusuf Pasha arrived from Suleimania on the evening of the 24th January and is going to join the expedition.

P.P.S.—It is also rumoured that Ibn Reshid sent a messenger to Faizi Pasha asking him to hurry up with his troops, and that Faizi Pasha had turned the messenger out of his presence and told him that he was not Ibn Reshid's servant and that he would proceed when and how he liked.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 30th January 1905.

* * * *

27th January.

It is rumoured here that some rich landowners at Basrah have been sent to Constantinople to be interrogated because they have been corresponding with Ibn Saoud and Mubarek Sabah. They are now in Baghdad. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople.)

* * * * *

28th January.

The Vice-Consul at Kerbala, in a letter dated 20th January 1905, reports as follows :—

"In continuation of my letter No. 18, dated 13th January 1905, I beg to say that two days ago another regiment (tabour) arrived here from Baghdad and started to-day for Nejef. The strength of the regiment was approximately 500, of whom 40 were handcuffed. It is said that these are deserters who have been caught and are to be returned to their respective tabours. About 100 transport camels also came with them. With each tabour some cavalry too has gone to Nejef: the whole amounting to about 600. It is said that 2,200 cavalry will go with the Mushir."

"The Bimbashi of the Redif tabour of Kerbala, which has been sent to Samawa, Kerbala and Shamiya, returned to-day to Kerbala without his tabour." (Sent to Embassy Constantinople.)

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 4990 F. D.—23-3-1905.—66 - W. D'C.



62

00058

Recd. on 20th Febry: 1905 with Pol: Secy's Letter No. 5, dated the 3rd February 1905.

Enclosure in F. O. covering letter of 27th Jany 1905.

Decypher. Mr. Townley, Pera. January 27, 1905.

No. 26.

Following from Consul at Jerusalem dated January 26th.

"My telegram of January 21st. Eight hundred Redifs embarked yesterday at Jaffa in Austrian Steamer for Beyrout. Their destination is reported to be Central Arabia via Damascus."

Refer to my telegram No. 22.

Enclosure in F. O. covering letter of 31st Jany 1905.

Decypher Mr. Townley, Pera. January 31, 1905.

No. 27.

Nejd.

The expedition under Feizi Pasha has started from Nedjed.





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CONFIDENTIAL.

D

00059

No. 969- E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 939-E.B, dated the 4th March 1905.

15/3

By order, etc.,

C. [signature]

Assistant Secy to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 7th March 1905.

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 28, dated the 10th January 1905 and enclosures. (Received with letter No. 5, dated the 3rd February 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1877 F. D.—29-11-1904.—3,000.—C. J. T.





Recd on 20/2/05 with Political Secretary's letter No 5, dated the 3rd February 1905.

(64)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [January 16.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 28.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 10, 1905.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting preparations for the Nejd expedition, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad respecting mobilization of troops and collection of camels at Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Consul-General Newmarsh to Mr. Townley.

(No. 988/76.)

Sir, *Bagdad, December* 2, 1904.

THE Consular Agent at Mosul reports as follows in one of his letters dated the 22nd November, 1904:—

"An order has lately been issued, calling out the reserves of this vilayet. The 3rd Battalion has already been assembled from the 24th Firka of the 47th Lowa of the 93rd Alai.

"This mobilization is due to the alleged fights going on between Ibn Rashid and Ibn Sabah, because the Turkish Government intends to assist Ibn Rashid by sending him soldiers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH, *Major.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Consul-General Newmarch to Mr. Townley.

(No. 1010/78.)

Sir, *Bagdad, December* 12, 1904.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 988/76 dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit the following further report from the British Consular Agent at Mosul regarding the projected expedition against Ibn Saoud:—

"I have the honour to inform you that some days ago an order was issued from the Grand Vizier at Constantinople to the Vali of Mosul to the effect that about 1,000 camels should be collected from the Vilayet of Mosul for the transport of military stores and ammunition. Sheikh Assi, son of Ferhan Pasha, who is now in prison with his followers, has promised to give 100 camels, and the local Government have distributed part of the demand among the various quarters of Mosul, including Mahommedans, Christians, and Jews. The rest will be collected from the vilayet and from the immediate neighbourhood."

2. I hear that the Turks contemplate permanently garrisoning El Kasim, and that the alleged assistance to Ibn Rashid is merely a pretext to cover their ulterior design.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. S. NEWMARCH, *Major.*

[2329 *q*—2]





(65)

No.273.

00061

From

Captain S.G.Knox,I.A.,

Political Agent,Koweit.

To

The Political Resident in the

Persian Gulf.

B U S H I R E.

Dated 13th March 1905.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No.344,dated the 7th March 1905 and to inform you that the letter forwarded therewith was duly handed over to Sheikh Mobarak.

Confidential

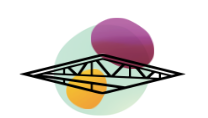
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant,

S G Knox Captain,

Political Agent,Koweit.





Confidential.

No. 143, dated Bushire, the 19th (received 28th) March 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., Assistant Resident, Bushire,
To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my No. 126, dated 12th March 1905, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter * from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Busrah, on the subject of the recent meeting between His Excellency the Vali of Busrah and the father of Bin Saood.

* No. 9, dated the 10th March 1905.

Sheikh Mubarak's version of the interviews is being communicated to Mr. Monahan.

No. 9, dated the 10th March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, Busrah,
To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a telegram which I have to-day despatched to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople. I have thought it best not to telegraph to India, not having any information from you or from Captain Knox, as some or all of the information in the telegram may have already been given by him. I would request you to be good enough to send the telegram to India if you think that necessary, and to communicate to me any information you have relative to the matters herein reported.

Telegram, dated the 10th March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Majesty's Acting Consul, Busrah,
To—His Majesty's Charge d' Affaires, Constantinople.

Please refer to my telegram No. 17. I have received following information on good authority :—

The Vali proposed to the Sheikh at the second meeting, to send some Ottoman soldiers, and Sanitary and Postal Officials at Koweit. Sheikh declined offer. On the 14th ultimo Vali sent a letter to Sheikh Mobarak telling him to prevent increase of Foreign influence, and accept proposals, by which he probably meant oral proposals abovementioned. A letter was also sent to Ibn Saood's father saying that all would be well if he offered submission to Mushir.

So far the Sheikh has not yet replied and Ibn Saoo's father has asked for a letter of recommendation to Mushir.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 6263 F. D.—1-4-1905—60—N. N. B.





(67)
00063

No: 412 of 1905.

British Residency and Consulate-General.
Bushire, 21st March 1905.

Sir,

With reference to the concluding portion of your letter No: 9 dated 10th March 1905, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of a ~~letter~~ communication from Captain Knox, giving Sheikh

~~No: dated with enclosure~~ Enclosure to his letter No. d/ 243 d/28th Feby 1905

Mobarak's version of the interviews with the Vali of Basra.

I have communicated your telegram to the Government of India.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
your most obedient servant
[signature] Captain,
First Asst: Resident
(In Charge Current Duties.)

His Britannic Majesty's Consul.
BUSRA.





(68)

00064

CONFIDENTIAL.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 801 Date 23.3.05 PERSIAN GULF.

No. 984 E/B.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 969 E/B., dated the 7th March 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Fort William;

The 8th March 1905.

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 6th February 1905.

Telegram from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 32 dated 10th February 1905 (Received with letter No. 6, dated 10th February 1905 from the Secy.; Political depth; India Office)





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(Copy.) 00065

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 6th February 1905.

x x x x x x

February 4th

It is reported here that Faizi Pasha has sent back to Nejef the following battalions as he considers that he has more troops than is necessary :-

42nd Regiment, 4th battalion, under Bimbashi Osman Effendi, 650 men.

48th Regiment, 4th battalion, under Bimbashi Hassan Effendi, 600 men.

(sent to Embassy, Constantinople.)





(70)

00066

Received on 27th February 1905 with Political Secretary's letter, No. 6, dated the 10th February 1905.

Decypher Mr. Townley, Pera D/- 1.15 P.M. February 10th 1905. R/- 3.15

No. 32.

Confidential. Nejd.

Consul at Busrah reported recently that Ibn Saoud's father was seeking a meeting with the Vali for the purpose of offering his son's submission to Ottoman Government.

I have ascertained that Vali has been instructed to see him and report as to the nature of guarantees he can give for future good behaviour of his tribe.





(71)

From J. H. Monahan Esq. 00067

To (~~presumably~~) Resident ~~Hui Ambassador~~

dated 24th March.

1 – Referring to your telegrams dated March 14th and 16th. In conversation with me on March 23rd Vali said "Of course the general status quo in Koweit will be respected if that has been decided. But the relations between the Vali and the Shaikh must be changed. I can get back deserters & criminals from Persia but not from Koweit. The Shaikh does not attend to any request". I asked whether such cases had occurred lately – with some confusion he answered "no important cases, the principle is important". I remarked that natives of Bahrein had applied to me for protection against robberies. He merely answered that the new Mutassarif who was in Hassa would do whatever was necessary –

– Monahan

Copy forwarded under endorsement "for info" by Mr. Monahan – dated 24/3/05.





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[Confidential.]

00068

No 147, dated Bushire, the 26th March (received 4th April) 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to my letter No. 113, dated 4th March, with which was forwarded a copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Busreh on the subject of events in Nejd, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a further despatch* from Mr. Monahan on the same subject, making certain corrections in the former despatch.

* No. 10, dated 18th March 1905.

No. 10, dated 18th March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Majesty's Consul, Busreh,

To—HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR N. R. O'CONOR, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

I have the honour to correct an error in my despatch No. 8 of the 24th ultimo.

In that despatch it is stated that a telegram from Abdur Rahman, father of Ibn Saood, and one from the Kaimakum of Katr were handed in at the Fao Office on the $\frac{2}{15}$ November 1904 and were not in reply to a letter of invitation from the Acting Vali Fakri Pasha. This date was given by a clerical mistake of my informant. The real date was $\frac{\text{23rd November}}{\text{6th December}}$ and the telegrams, or at any rate the one from Abdur Rahman, would appear to have been in reply to Fakri Pasha's letter.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C 7 F. D.—13-4-05.—67.—R. S. W.





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00069

[Confidential.]

No. 148, dated Bushire, the 26th March (received 4th April) 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I.A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 143, dated 19th March 1905, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Busreh on the subject of an allowance to Ibn Saood's father and movements of Turkish troops.

Telegram, dated 22nd March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Majesty's Consul, Busreh,

To—{His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.
The Political Resident, Bushire.

Please refer to my telegram No. 19. I am informed that Ibn Saood's father received pay from the Turkish Government at the rate of 58 liras per mensem for 10 years up to the year 1903, and that he now demands that it should be continued from that year. The authorities at Busreh have received orders from Constantinople to supply provisions and transport to enable the portion of the Turkish forces which is at present at Wakisah situated 100 miles toward Kasim on the Nejf-Kasim road, to join the portion with the Mushir at Lina 170 miles further. Raids to the east of Kasim are being made by the Amir.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No C 7 F. D.—13-4-05.—57.—R. S. W.





(74)

[Confidential.] 00070

No. 149, dated Bushire, the 26th March (received 4th April) 1905.
From—Captain A. P. Trevor, I.A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,
To—S. M. Fraser, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 126, dated 12th March, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of Sheikh Mobarak's reply to the letter which I addressed to him on the subject of the meeting at Sefwan.

Dated 8th Muharram 1323 / 16th March 1905.

From—Sheikh Mobarak el Subah, Chief of Koweit,
To—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Offg. Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have received your letter, dated the 30th Zilhyjah 1322, stating that after returning from Bahrein, you had perused the communications made by Captain Knox regarding the Mejlis convened at Sefwan.

I always represent to Captain Knox whatever takes place with us. As to myself, I do not wish, and will not, interfere with Nejd affairs at all, because I understood from the beginning, that they were injurious in the end, and because interested persons like Ibn Rashid and Yusif el Brahim were concerned in them.

Furthermore this affair has no connection with me and my object is only the safety of our territories and prosperity of our trade.

Inshallah, by the kind attentions of the High Government we will remain at ease and continue our friendly relations, and fulfil our obligations.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No C 7 F. D.—13-4-05.—67.—R. S. W.





(75)
00071

Recd. with Capt. Knox's letter No. 274 d/15.3.05 re Bahrein ultimatum (assault on Persians)

الله تعالى

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الى دولتلو شوكتلو الاجل الافخم ميجر كاكس باليوز وقنسل جنرال الدولة البهية الانكليز في خليج فارس

غب اقتطاف زهر خاطركم المقيد في اهنا وقت سعيد تشرفنا باوركم العالي تاريخ ٣٠ ذالحجه ٣٢٢
او حضرتكم العالية بعد رجعتكم الى ابوشهر المطلعة على مكاتيب عالي الجاه قبطان ناكس فو
خصوصًا المجلس المنعقد في سفينته فنحن كما يصير عندنا نوضح الى حضرة صاحب الجاه قبطان ناكس
واما اني انا يا محبكم ليس لي ميل ولا اتداخل في امور البحرين قطعًا لأننا نحن من المبدا امورنا واحده
وادخلت فيها اعراض ابن رشيد وبقيت الدراهم ومع هذا هذه امور ما تعنينا قطعا
ملاحظتنا لشئون الرافاه والسماع الجار دعينا وبوجود وقوع انظار الدولة البهية
لعلما انشاء الله مستر الجانب البال ومحافظين على الصداقة ومحافظين على الامور التي تعنينا
ودمتم سالمين محروسين ٨ محرم ١٣٢٣

Translation attached of Sh: M's letter





(76)

00072

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1129 E.B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 871 Date 30.3.05 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 984-E.B., dated the 8th March 1905.

By order, etc.,

Charles Locke

Assistant Secy to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 16th March 1905.

Extracts from the diaries of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the weeks ending, respectively, the 13th and 20th February 1905.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 1877 F. D.—29-11-1904.—3'00.—C. J. T.





(77)

00073

py.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending 13th February 1905.

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x x x x x x x x x

February 10th.

Baghdad is full of silly rumours about English intervention in Nedjd, but they are too ridiculous for notice.

The Turks are very suspicious and a few days ago when Adamji Peerbhoy a J.P. of Bombay who was, I believe, lately Sheriff of that town, came on pilgrimage to Kerbala, the Vali wished to know full particulars about him and the object of his journey before he would give him Zaptiehs as an escort. The Vali's curiosity has not been gratified and Adamjee Peerbhoy has gone to Kerbala.

I propose shortly to explain verbally to the Vali that such suspicions are as groundless as they are childish, and that British subjects with passports which have been duly vised cannot be subjected to cross-examination about their antecedents or the objects of their journey. I will subsequently explain to the Vali - as a personal favour - who Adamji Peerbhoy is and what was the object of his journey.

The present Vali is very friendly and well disposed but weak and afraid of the Constantinople spies in Baghdad.

x x x x x x x x x





78

00074

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 20th February 1905.

" " " " " " " "

February 16th.

The British Vice-Consul at Kerbala reports as follows under dated 10th February 1905:-

"In continuation of my report No. 26, dated 20th January 1905, I beg to say that a few days ago, Meer-Liwa (Brigadier-General) Yousuf Pasha came here from Baghdad and after staying a few days started for Nejef in order to join the Mushir in the Jabal (Nejd)."

"It is said that a conflict took place between the Arabs and the soldiers on their way to Nejd. Some soldiers were wounded, three of whom were brought to Kerbala in a dying condition."

"It is also rumoured that 70 soldiers died of cold while doing guard duty seven stages beyond Nejef". (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).





[Confidential.]

No. 164, dated Bushire, the 7th (received 17th) April 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I. A., Assistant Resident, Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 143, dated 19th March 1905, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a letter* which I have received from Mr. Monahan, His Majesty's Consul at Basrah, on the subject of the recent meeting between the Wali of Basrah and Ibn Saud.

* No. 11, dated 31st March 1905.

No. 11, dated 31st March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Majesty's Acting Consul, Basrah,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

I have the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter No. 412 of the 21st instant, enclosing copy of a communication from Captain Knox, giving Sheikh Mubarak's version of the interviews with the Wali of Basrah.

With reference to paragraph 11 of the communication I have heard nothing of the Sheikh having communicated with the Bash Katib at Constantinople (the Sultan's Chief Secretary). I understand that the Chief Secretary is friendly to Ibn Rashid and hostile to Sheikh Mubarak.

With reference to the paragraph in the communication respecting R. I. M. S. "Investigator," I have it on good authority that the Wali in the letter which he sent to the Sheikh immediately after the second interview says:—"It is known to the Sultan that buoys have been put down in your harbour by foreigners". The Sheikh does not appear to have yet replied to this letter.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C 64 F. D.—22-4-05.—67.—E. A. D'S.





(80)

00076

No. 11
Conf.

Basrah
March 31-1905.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter No. 412 of the 21st inst. enclosing copy of a communication from Captain Knox giving Sheikh Mubarak's version of the interview with the Vali of Basrah.

With reference to para 11 of the communication, I have heard nothing of the Sheikh having communicated with the Bash Katib at Constantinople (the Sultan's chief Secretary). I understand that

H. M.'s Majesty's
Resident
in the
Bushire.



that the Chief Secretary is friendly to Ibn Rashid and hostile to Sheikh Mubarek.

With reference to the paragraph in the communication respecting R.I.M.S Investigator, I have it on good authority that the Vali in the letter which he sent to the Sheikh immediately after the second interview says: "It is known to the Sultan that buoys have been put down in your harbour by foreigners." The Sheikh does not appear to have yet replied to this letter.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient,
Humble Servant
J. H. Monahan
(Acg Consul)



(81)

00077

Confidential

No: 164 of 1905.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th April 1905.

From,

Captain A.P. Trevor I.A.,
Assistant Resident,
Persian Gulf.

To,

S.M. Fraser Esquire, C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No: 145 dated 19th March 1905, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India a copy of a letter* which *No: 11 dated 31st March 1905 I have received from Mr: Monahan H.M's Consul at Busreh on the subject of the recent meeting between the Wali of Busreh and Bin Saud.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Captain I.A.,
First Assistant
for Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.



00077

No: 164 of 1905.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th April 1905.

From,

Captain A.P. Trevor I.A.,

Assistant Resident,

Persian Gulf.

To,

S.M. Fraser Esquire, C.I.E.,

Secretary to the Government of India

in the Foreign Department,

S I M L A.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No: 153 dated 10th March 1905, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India a copy of a letter which* (No: 11 dated 31st March 1905) I have received from Mr: Monahan H.M.'s Consul at Basrah on the subject of the recent meeting between the Wali of Basrah and Bin Saud.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain I.A.,

First Assistant

for Political Resident in the

Persian Gulf.



Paraphrase.

(82)

00078

British Ambassador
Constantinople.

No. 25.

Reference your telegram dated 24th March. According to information received here by letters, it appears that the Mushir and Amir were at Khadra, and that 4 battalions proceeded from Medina and have arrived near Kassim. Number of troops from Medina, is estimated at a battery and three battalions by local military sources. The Amir's Agent at Basra, telegraphing to Reshid Pasha, Yildiz, reports that the Arab robbers have been punished and subdued by the Amir, and that it was expected that affairs would soon be settled, also, that there had arrived at Koweit for the purpose of contriving mischief, a Nejd friend of Sheikh Mubarak, accompanied by other bad men.

April 3rd 1905.

The foregoing is forwarded with compliments of the undersigned to His Majesty's Resident and Consul-General at Bushire, for his information.

British Consulate
Basra.
3rd April 1905.

(Signed) F. E. Crow.
H.B. M's Consul
Basra.

P.T.O.



Confdl No. 526
d/16.4.05.

Copy forwarded to
with compliments
to Capt. S.G. Knox
P.A. Koweit for
informn. By order
2d/ A.P. Trevor
F.A.

N.S.
16/4



CONFIDENTIAL.

(83)

00079

No. 1362- E.B.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No.113, dated the 4th March 1905.

By order, etc.,

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA:
The 10th April 1905.

[signature]

Asstt. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-x-

Despatches Nos.51 and 53 dated the 24th January 1905 from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, with enclos:

(Received with letter No.8, dated 24th February 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office).





(84)

00080

(*Received on 13th March 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 8, dated the 24th February 1905.*

PERSIA AND ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[January 30.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Mr. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE.—(Received January 30th.)

(No. 51.)

Constantinople,
24th January 1905.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Damascus, reporting the departure of further troops, ostensibly for the Yêmen, and giving an account of recent events in the Nejd.

This is the first intimation that has reached me of Hail having fallen into the hands of Ibn Saoud.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY

Inclosure in No 1

Consul RICHARDS to Mr. TOWNLEY.

(No. 3.)

Damascus,
11th January 1905.

Sir,

I had the honour to report by telegraph on the 9th instant, with reference to my despatch No. 59 of the 24th ultimo, that up to that date [illegible] 2,500 troops, most of whom are last year's conscripts, had left Damascus by the Mecca railway for Ma'au, whence they would march to Akaba and embark there for some post in the Yêmen, probably Hodeidah.

Of these troops 1,500 men came from Beirut, 1,000 having been landed there for the purpose, while the remaining 500 (in round numbers) are said to be last year's conscripts. As to this, however, you will be better informed from another quarter. Of the remaining 1,000, about 500—mostly last year's conscripts—have come from the Aleppo district, while the rest (500) have been drawn from this district.

I hear that a lieutenant general (ferik), a colonel (Miralai), and a lieutenant colonel (Caimmacam), whose names so far are unknown, are now on their way here from Constantinople, in order to proceed to the Nejd with the object of forming a sort of advisory Committee to Abdul Aziz Ibn Reshid, the Emir of that country. These officers are, it is said, to be joined here by two others of the rank of Kol Aghassi (adjutant-major), one of whom is a certain Ferid Bey belonging to the Staff here, while the other, whose name is Mustapha





Effendi, is coming from Aleppo, where he occupies a similar position. I am even given to understand that Feizi Pasha, who commands the 6th (Baghdad) Army District, will also proceed to Nejd (if indeed he has not already started) on a special mission to the Emir, but you will be better informed on this point from another quarter.

You will, Sir, doubtless have heard of the capture of Hail by Abdul Aziz Ibn So'oud, the Wahibi opponent of Ibn Reshid. A report has reached me to the effect that Ibn So'oud has made an earnest appeal to the Sultan to support his claim to the Emirship of the Nejd on the ground that he is the hereditary Emir, and not Ibn Reshid, who can only claim descent from an usurper, *viz.*, his grandfather, Abdullah Ibn Reshid, the founder, so to speak, of the dynasty This is undoubtedly true, but it is open to question whether the Sultan could, as a matter of policy, even if he wished, cease to protect the present representative of the Ibn Reshid family.

In view of the conflict now going on in the Nejd, it has occurred to me that some of the troops now supposed to be on their way to the Yêmen may not improbably be landed at Yambô (instead of proceeding to Kumfida or Hodeidah) and marched up through Medina to Hail to the assistance of Ibn Reshid. Here in military circles it is reported, it is true, that Yêmen is the destination of all the troops, but that would be stated in any case. It does not follow that it is true.

I have, etc.,

W. S. RICHARDS.

(*Received on 13th March 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 8, dated 24th February 1905.*)

PERSIA. [January 30.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 7.

No. 1.

MR. TOWNEY to the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE.—(Received January 30th.)

(No. 53.) Constantinople,

My Lord, 24th January 1905.

With reference to my despatch No. 972 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship, herewith, copies of two Memoranda by the British Vice-Consul at Jeddah, on the condition of affairs prevailing in the Nejd.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memoranda by Vice-Consul Hussein respecting affairs of Nejd.

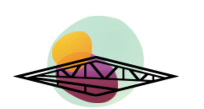
(1.)

About a fortnight ago a messenger arrived at Mecca with letters from Bin Saud to the Grand Shereef and the Vali of Hedjaz.

It is reported that Bin Saud wrote to the Grand Shereef that as His Highness is the recognized leader of the Arab tribes and their Sheikhs, so he considered it necessary to make him the channel of all correspondence between him and the Sublime Porte or His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

He goes on to say that he has no idea of revolting against the Turkish Government, nor to disobey their orders; and as he is the lawful Ruler of Nejd, and he has defeated the usurper, Bin Rashid, he was willing to accept any reasonable terms imposed on him by the Imperial Government and to carry

6074 F. D.



them out faithfully. He also mentioned in this letter that he was sorry for having fought the Turkish troops in Nejd, but as they were helping his antagonist, Bin Rashid, he was obliged to do so in self-defence. He promised to return to any person appointed by the Government all the booty, including guns, rifles, belonging to the Turkish troops, taken in battle with Bin Rashid.

He also informed the Grand Shereef that at the request of His Highness he has allowed the Bassam family to return to their home (Aneza) with all their property, and that the Bassams will testify to the kind treatment they have received at his hands. It is also reported that telegraphic correspondence had passed between the authorities at Mecca and Constantinople.

The messenger has returned to Nejd three days ago with sealed letters to Bin Saud, both from the Vali and the Grand Shereef, but the contents of these are not known.

MOHAMMED HUSSEIN.

January 3rd, 1905.

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(2)

With reference to the last Memorandum on the affairs of Nejd, I have the honour to report that I have come to know from the son of Abdulla Bassam, residing in this town, that though Bin Saud has informed the Grand Shereef that he has allowed the Bassam family to return to Aneza, it is not true. My informant has received a letter from Abdulla Bassam from Riad, in which is mentioned that the Bassam family have given up the cause of Bin Rashid, and henceforth will be faithful to the cause of Bin Saud; no mention is made in this letter that the family has been permitted to return to their home. My informant considers that the letter was most likely written under pressure from Bin Saood or to gain his favour with the object of getting freedom to return to Aneza. It is believed the Bassams have not yet left Riad.

MOHAMMED HUSSEIN.

January 11th, 1905.

P.S.—It is also reported that Ahmed Faizi Pasha has left Baghdad with 10 battalions of infantry, about 1,200 cavalry, and 36 field and 6 heavy guns.

M. H.

(Received on 13th March 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 8, dated the 24th February 1905.)

PERSIA AND ARABIA. [January 30.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 3.

No. 1.

Mr. TOWNLEY to the MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE.—(Received January 30).

(No. 57.) Constantinople, 24th January 1905.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad, transmitting a copy of his weekly Intelligence Report to the Government of India, dealing with the state of affairs in the Nejd, the visit of Sir William Willcocks, and other matters.

I have, etc.,

WALTER TOWNLEY.



[Confidential.]

No. 188, dated Bushire, the 28th April (received 8th May) 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 164, of 7th April, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of two communications which I have received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah, on the subject of Nejd affairs.

Nos. 14 and 15, dated the 22nd April 1905.

No. 15, dated the 14th April 1905.

From—His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

With reference to my telegram 25 of April 3rd, I have the honour to report that on March 26th I received information that a messenger from Khadra wells with letters from Ibn Reshid to his friends at Basrah had arrived here. It was said that the messenger also brought a letter from the Mushir Feyzi Pasha, who appears to have been at Khadra when he left. Ibn Reshid's letter was to the effect that he had successfully raided certain tribes on the last border of Kassim and that four battalions had arrived near Kassim from Medina.

From military information here it would appear that the troops from Medina consisted of three battalions and a battery.

On the same date information was also received that Ibn Reshid's Agent at Basrah, Hassan el Haji, had sent a telegram to Reshid Pasha, the Amir's Confidential Agent at Yildiz, stating that the Amir had reported that he had punished the desert robbers who interrupted communications and they had been brought under control. The telegram expressed the hope that matters would shortly be settled in accordance with the Sultan's wishes and stated further that Suleiman-ash-Shubeyli and other bad characters with him had arrived at Koweit from Kassim, in order to contrive mischief.

This message appears to be based on the letter from the Amir referred to above.

On March 30th the same Hassan el Haji telegraphed to his Agent at Nejef, one Shellash, telling him to warn the Shamars and the caravans, as raiding (presumably by the Saood faction or Koweit Arabs) was going on in that direction.

Copy.

No. 14.

April 22nd, 1905.

Forwarded to His Majesty's Resident, Bushire, with the compliments of the undersigned.

F. E. CROW.

No. 17, dated 22nd April 1905.

From—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

With reference to Mr. Monahan's telegram No. 19 of March 10th last, I am informed that Mubarak has answered the Vali's letter of February 14th to the



effect that he is the obedient servant of the Ottoman Government and that his appearance with Abdur Rahman at the interviews of February 8th and 13th was to prove his submission and not to put himself forward. I have not yet been able to obtain a copy of the letter, but Abdul Hamid Effendi, the Sheikh's Lawyer at Basrah, tells me he presented it himself to the Vali at the Sheikh's direction and read it to him.

I hear that Abdul Aziz bin Saood has taken eight of the Bessam family from Kassim to Riad and holds them prisoners as a sort of reprisal for the action of the Turks at Basrah in removing three Nejdi merchants to Constantinople.

A telegram from Abdur Rahman el Feysal to Agah Pasha of the Imperial Household at Constantinople, dated April 4th, was despatched from Fao on April 17th. I have received a copy of it. After acknowledging the receipt of Agah Pasha's telegram through Kassim Khederi of Basrah, and explaining the reasons of delay in answering it, the message runs:—" I am the obedient servant of Our Lord the Great Caliph, God preserve his throne till the day of judgment. I have repeatedly reported to the Imperial Throne by telegram from Fao and Basrah about the presumption of Ibn Reshid, his interference in our country and the acts of tyranny, bloodshed and robbery which he continues to commit. Statements have also been presented by the people of Aneyza, Boreyda and Shaggera. We have been honoured with no reply. And the evil deeds of Ibn Reshid, which neither God nor the Imperial Throne will sanction, increase, and all the people of Nejd and the tribes are disgusted at the violence of Ibn Reshid. I am continually writing on these matters to the Vali and have received no reply. In Zil Hijje an order came to me from the Vali of Basrah to present myself. I came and shewed my submission and obedience. Therefore I beg of you that the favour of our Lord the Caliph may be extended to his servant as it is extended to all his servants.

Copy.

No. 15.

April 22nd, 1905.

Forwarded to His Majesty's Resident, Bushire, with the compliments of the undersigned.

F. E. CROW.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C156. F. D.—25-5-05.—69—R. B.



Paraphrase.

Tel. from

(87)

00083

Consul
Basra.

d/r 6th May '05.

In a letter to the Vali from the Mushir, and a telegram to the Palace from the Medina Contingent Commandant, it was stated that on the 2nd, the troops entered Boreyda, and also without resistance, Aneyza, on the 5th April (old style. The inhabitants submitted with a good grace, and received them well. Having hoisted the Turkish flag, prayers were read for the Sultan and salutes fired. In both towns, administrative posts have been established.

HC





(88)

No: 205 of 1905. 00084

British Residency and Consulate-General
Bushire 7 May 1905.

From.

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Offg: Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To.

S. M. Fraser Esquire, C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department
S I M L A.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No:188 of 28th April, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India paraphrase of a telegram which I have received from H.B.M.'s Consul Bussorah on the subject of Nejd affairs.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
P. Z. Cox Major
Offg: Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.



Paraphrase

(89)

00085

From H.B.M's Consul
Bussorah
d/ 10th May 1905.

In continuation of my telegram No. 28.
The reported peaceful occupation of Kassim is corroborated by telegrams from the Mushir and the Kaimakam of Boreyda and Mudir of Aneyza received at the Palace.
Mushir telegraphed: "Waksa has been ordered to return to Nejaf with his troops as affairs there are settled. ~~Performed duties of newly administrative officials who have been newly appointed~~ New administrative officials thank Sultan for blessings of good Govt. conferred on them by the Mushir." Sent Constantinople repeated to Bushire.

PKC

10/





(90)

Confidential. No. 1579 -E.B. 00086

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 1362-E.B., dated the 10th April 1905.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1227 Date 11.5.05 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

Clarence Locke

Asstt: Secretary to the Govt: of India.

Foreign Department,
Simla;
The 27th April 1905.

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 74 (Confidential) dated the 31st January 1905 and enclosures.

(Received with letter No. 9, dated the 3rd March 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office)

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 6th March 1905.

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 62, dated the 24th January 1905.

(Received with letter No. 10, dated the 10th March 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office).





(91)

00087

Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne No. 99, dated the 7th ~~March~~ February 1905.

Despatch No. 111 (Confidential) dated the 14th February 1905 -ditto-

(Received with letter No. 11, dated the 17th March 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office).

Communication from the Admiralty to the Foreign Office, No. M.NL.2425, dated the 4th March 1905, with enclosure.

(Received with letter No. 12, dated the 24th March 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)





(Received on 20th March 1905 with Political Secretary's Letter No. 9, dated 3rd March 1905.)

ARABIA.
(NEJD.)

[February 6.]
SECTION 2.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 74 Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 31, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Lamb, inclosing translation of a telegram, in which Abdur Rahman, father of Abdul Aziz-ibn-Saoud, renews his assurances of submission and devotion to the Sultan.

The Memorandum with reference to Talib Bey and to the policy which it is probable that he has been sent to carry out in Nejd were forwarded to your Lordship in Sir N O'Conor's despatch No. 684 * of the 26th August last, and the substance of Mr. Lamb's Memorandum No 422 was contained in my despatch No. 2 of the 2nd January.

* Secret E., February 1905, Nos. 1073-1145.

As I had the honour to inform your Lordship in my telegram No. 27 of to-day's date the military expedition under Feizi Pasha has already started from Nedjef. The Grand Vizier himself told me so this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Lamb.

(No. 37 Confidential.)

I HAVE been furnished with the annexed translation of a telegram received two days ago from Ibn Saoud, in which he renews his assurances of submission and devotion to the Sultan.

The expression in the last paragraph about "the coming Commission of Inquiry" may perhaps be a euphemism for Feizi Pasha's expedition, which the Grand Vizier told you to-day had started from Nedjef, but the person who gave me the telegram further informed me that Talib Bey (or rather Pasha, for he seems to have been recently promoted), author of the Memorandum on Nejd affairs, a translation of which accompanied my Memorandum No. 289 of the 24th August last, is about to be dispatched again to Nejd, with the ostensible mission of attempting to reconcile the two rival Emirs, but more probably to assist in carrying out the policy indicated in my Memorandum No. 422 of the 31st ultimo.

(Signed) H. H. LAMB.

Constantinople, January 30, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Translation of an Arabic Telegram dated January 15 (28), 1905, and signed "Abdur Rahman Saad-es-Saadoun."

MY humble Petition, to be laid, by the intermediary of the Council of Ministers, before the throne of His Imperial Majesty, our gracious Sovereign,

36

(99FD)



Commander of the Faithful, Caliph of the Prophet of the Lord of all the Worlds :—

I am one of the faithful servants of the Shadow of God, whose family from father to son, has lavished its blood and treasure in the glorious service of the Caliphate. I have no thought or aspiration save that of meriting the approbation of my Sovereign. It is for me a most sacred obligation to contribute the Imperial taxes at their due and proper season, and to serve and assist the divinely-aided troops of the Shadow of God. Only the local authorities, with a view to advancing their personal interests, have misrepresented this weak slave to the Caliph, making him appear a traitor and a rebel. Whereas these same authorities, for many years past, have not ceased to seize and misappropriate the produce of my farms and date plantations, not even hesitating to kill and murder my tenants and collectors, and in order to conceal their own traitorous conduct in this respect they continue to augment their slanderous accusations against myself.

As for the schemes and intentions of Abdul Aziz-ibn-er-Rashid, they are to overrun the whole of Nejd and Irak. Therefore, to further these aims, he sends to Constantinople persons in his service, bearing "dinars" (£ s. d.) and presents, who calumniate those faithful ones who are opposed to his aggressive schemes. These, however, will be one and all known to His Majesty.

I, together with Jasim-bin-Thain, Kaïmakam and Head Sheikh of Katr, openly represented my submission and obedience in our telegrams of the 28th November (10th December) last. I am submissive to every order and command of the Shadow of God. I neither follow the instigations of any foreigner, nor am I the means of communication with any foreigner. In fact, under the protection of His Imperial Majesty, there is no seditious agent or medium of foreigners in all these regions. Ibn Rashid's representatives at the capital naturally strive to provoke the wrath of His Imperial Majesty against me, but His Majesty is the judge. He does not desire to persecute his most faithful servants.

If the coming Commission of Inquiry does not establish the truth of my assertions, I once more assure His Majesty that I willingly accept the severest penalty that he can impose upon me. Let the Imperial Justice decide.

37



93

00089

Telegram, dated the 24th March 1905.

From—J. H. MONAHAN, Esq., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

Please refer to your telegrams dated the 14th and the 16th March 1905.

On the 22nd March the Vali spoke to me as follows:—"Of course the general *status quo* in Koweit will be respected if that has been decided. But the relations between the Vali of Bassora and the Sheikh must be changed. I can get back deserters and crews from Persia but not from Koweit. The Sheikh does not attend to any request."

I asked whether such cases had lately occurred. He replied confusedly "No important cases, the principle (*sic*) is important."

I said that the natives of Bahrein had applied to me for protection against robbers. He replied merely that the new Mutessarif was in Hasa and the needful would be done by him. Sent to His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 6th March 1905.

* * * * * * *

March 4th.—Farik Haji Nejim Pasha and Meer Alai Sarim Beg, who accompanied Mushir Faizi Pasha's expedition to Jabal Shammar, returned to Baghdad on the 28th February last. They are both reported to be ill. Three soldiers also returned with them, one is said to have had his hand bitten by a horse and another to have been seriously kicked by a horse.

The men say that they have been well fed throughout their march but that water was occasionally scarce. During a six days' march water was doled to them in very small quantities, until on the 6th day of the march they reached some wells in the desert, where they found a copious supply of sweet water. The men say that they have left the force at a place called Elina about four days' distance from Jabal Shammar.

Liva Yusuf Pasha (who had arrived from Suleimanieh and afterwards left for Nejef to join Faizi Pasha) will, it is said, replace Ferik Haji Nejim Pasha, and Meer Alai Bassim Beg of the 43rd Regiment takes the place of Meer Alai Sarim Beg (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople.)

99FD





(*Received on 27th March 1905 with Political Secretary's Letter No. 10, dated 10th March 1905.*)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[January 30.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received January 30.*)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 24, 1905.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting Nejd hostilities, I have the honour to report that His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah informed me, by telegram, on the 22nd instant, that the Sheikh of Koweit had written a letter to the Vali of Bussorah, which was supposed to be on the subject of a proposed meeting of Ibn Saoud's father, the Vali, and the Sheikh. On the 23rd instant, Mr. Monahan telegraphed that a messenger had just arrived with a letter from Ibn Saoud's father, asking the Vali to meet him at Safwan, on the Koweit boundary. The Vali, who has telegraphed to Constantinople for permission, will propose another place such as Fao, or somewhere nearer to Bussorah. Ibn Saoud's father is presumably now in Koweit.

With reference to my despatch No. 901 of the 28th November, Mr Monahan mentions incidentally that two or three weeks ago an order was received to place the Sheikh of Koweit's agent in a privileged room in prison, but that it had not yet been carried out. The agent had already a room to himself.

Secret E., March 1905, Nos. 217-282.

I yesterday told the Grand Vizier that his promises that the Sheikh's agent should be better treated had not been carried out, and his Highness replied that his instructions had probably not yet reached Bussorah.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

47





Received on the 5th April 1905, with Political Secretary's Letter No. 11, dated the 17th March 1905).

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[February 13.]

SECTION 5.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 7, 1905.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship, in my telegram No. 27 of the 31st ultimo, that Feizi Pasha had left Nejd at the head of the expedition against Ibn Saoud.

There is now good reason to believe that a large part of his force has deserted him, and he himself has telegraphed that, unless reinforcements are sent at once, his force will find itself in a critical condition.

I have not been able to ascertain the strength of the expedition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

(Received on 5th April 1905, with Political Secretary's Letter No. 11, dated 17th March 1905.)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[February 20.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 14, 1905.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 34 of the 12th instant, in which I informed your Lordship that the Vali of Bussorah had met Ibn Saoud's father and Mobarek-es-Sabah, Sheikh of Koweit, on the 8th instant, I have the honour to state that I have not yet been able to ascertain details about the meeting beyond the fact that Abdur Rahman made humble submission to the Sultan in his own name and in that of his son Abdul Aziz, professing loyalty and devotion to his Sovereign and his readiness to obey his commands. He stated that he was prepared to do all he could to assist the Turkish expedition to the Kasim, and declared Ibn Rashid to be his enemy and to be inciting the Imperial Government against him.

The Sultan has called upon the Grand Vizier for an expression of opinion on Abdur Rahman's protestations.

I understand that the military expedition under Feizi Pasha which left Nedjef on the 29th ultimo has made but little progress. Desertions have been numerous and the expedition took five days to reach Vakissa, after having abandoned the munitions and other baggage at El Hammam. The report which I have received adds that, owing to the weakness of the camels and to some of them having died, the expedition is advancing with great difficulty, and that under the present conditions the provisions in their possession which are to last a month will be exhausted in ten days.

Orders have been issued that steps should be taken at once to remedy this state of things—an order which it may be found hard to execute.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

[99FD] 51



(Received on 5th April 1905, with Political Secretary's Letter No. 11, dated 17th March 1905.)

ARABIA. [February 27.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(*Received February 27.*)

(No 124.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 21, 1905.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad reporting on movements of troops at Nejef.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) WALTER TOWNLEY.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Consul-General Newmarch to Mr. Townley.

(No. 7.)

Sir, *Bagdad, January 23, 1905.*

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the following extract from my diary to the Government of India of to-day's date:—

"The Vice-Consul at Karbala, in a letter dated the 13th January, 1905, reports as follows:—

"'In continuation of my report No. 9, * * * has gone from Hindiya to Nejef."

No. 1361-E. B., dated Simla, the 10th April 1905.

Endorsed by the Government of India, Foreign Department.

A copy of [illegible] of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Quarter Master General, Intelligence Branch, for information in continuation of the Foreign Department Endorsement No. 970-E. B., dated the 7th March 1905.

(1) Despatches from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, Nos. 51 and 53, dated the 24th January 1905, with Enclosures.
(Received with letter No. 8, dated 24th February 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)
(2) Letter No. 113, dated 4th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Enclosure.

No. 1362-E. B., dated Simla, the 10th April 1905.

Endorsed by the Government of India, Foreign Department.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. 113, dated the 4th March 1905.

Despatches Nos. 51 and 53, dated the 24th January 1905, from Mr. Townley, to the Marquess of Lansdowne.
(Received with letter No. 8, dated 24th February 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(Received on 11th April 1905, with Political Secretary's Letter No. 12, dated 24th March 1905.)

Enclosures in Foreign Office Covering letter of March 13th, 1905.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.

March 4th, 1905.

M. N. L. 2425.

SIR,

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquess of Lansdowne, extracts from a report dated 21st January by the Commanding Officer of H. M. S. *Sphinx* relative to the condition of affairs in the Persian Gulf.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

52



GENERAL LETTER.

Commander Bowman to Rear-Admiral Willes.

H. M. S. *Sphinx*, at Bushire.

S. No. 2, 1905.

January 21st, 1905.

SIR,

I left Mohammerah at daylight of the 11th and anchored off Failaka Island that night, proceeding into Koweit harbour next morning.

Shortly after the ship was clear of quarantine at Bussorah I called upon the Vali, but he did not return my visit.

I called upon the Sheikh of Koweit and was informed by the Political Agent that in probably a week or ten days' time a meeting was to take place at Safwan between the Sheikh, 'Abdur Rahman-bin-Saoud and the Vali of Bussorah to see if they can come to some agreement.

The Mushir of Bagdad is said to be very much averse to going on the expedition against Abdul Aziz bin Rahman, and had only got as far as Nizef (about three days' march from Bagdad) when we were at Koweit. Many of his troops are deserting him.

Also there are rumours that he has sent £10,000 to Constantinople to try and buy off the expedition.

The Sheikh of Koweit is very desirous of getting Nejd under British protection.

I left Koweit at noon of the 13th, arriving at Bushire noon of next day.

* * * * * * *

The *Redbreast* is still at Bahrein and should by this time have finished her surveying work. Lieutenant and Commander Somerville reports that affairs have been quiet there.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. S. BOWMAN,

Commander and Senior Naval Officer.

G. C. Press, Simla;—No. 99 F. D.—22-4-05.—40—W. S.





No. 219, dated Bushire, the 14th (received 20th) May 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Officiating Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 205, dated 7th May, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the communications marginally noted, since received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah, regarding Nejd affairs.

Despatch No. 21, dated 6th May.
Telegram, dated 10th May.

No. 21, dated 6th May 1905.

From—His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

With reference to my telegram of to-day, No. 28, I have the honour to report that I have received a copy of a telegram despatched through Basrah, presumably from Aneyza by Lieutenant-General Sudgi, who is in command of the troops from Medina, dated $\frac{10th}{23rd}$ April to the Palace.

After prayers for the Sultan's welfare he states that the troops attached to the V. Army Corps, under his command, joined the Mushir at Jibb (sic) and they marched by the wells of Derah (sic) to Kassim. The Sheikhs were summoned separately and received robes of honour and advice. They submitted with good grace. The country being quiet they entered Boreyda, the chief town of Kassim, and Aneyza without incident. The troops were well received. Saleh *bin* Muhenna and Abdul Aziz *bin* Suleymi, Sheikhs who had hastened to meet them, were appointed, the former, Kaimakam of Boreyda and the latter Mudir of Aneyza in reward for their fidelity and obedience. Eloquent prayers were read for the Sultan by the assembled Ulema. The Turkish flag was hoisted on the towers of Boreyda, the Hamidier march played and the troops drawn up in line cried "long live our Padischah." Thousands of persons listened submissively with folded hands, tears of joy were shed and a salute was fired. The telegram ends with dithyrambic praises of the Sultan and congratulations on this happy event, anticipatory of future victories and successes due to the pious devotion, clemency and power of his Imperial Majesty.

I am informed that the Vali received a letter from the Mushir on the same subject on May 4th. The letter was dated $\frac{10th}{23rd}$ April from Aneyza and stated that the Imperial troops entered Boreyda on the $\frac{2nd}{15th}$ and Aneyza on the $\frac{3rd}{16th}$ April. The substance is the same as that of the telegram to the Palace referred to above. The Mushir asks the Vali to release the prisoners here belonging to Kassim.

There is no mention of the Amir *Ibn* Rashid in either of these communications, but I am led to believe that he was not present at the entry of the troops into Boreyda and Aneyza and that his abstention from all interference in the affairs of Kassim was made a condition of the graceful submission of the inhabitants.

(*Copy.*)

BASRAH,

May 6th 1905.

Forwarded to His Majesty's Resident and Consul General at Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

(Sd.) F. E. CROW.



(Paraphrase of a telegram, dated 10th May 1905, from Consul, Basrah, to Resident, Bushire.)

In continuation of my telegram No. 28. The reported peaceful occupation of Kassim is corroborated by telegrams from the Mushir and the Kaimakam of Boreyda and Mudir of Aneyza received at the Palace.

Mushir telegraphed :—"Waksa has been ordered to return to Nejef with his troops as affairs there are settled.

New Administrative officials thank Sultan for blessings of good Government conferred on them by the Mushir. Sent Constantinople, repeated to Bushire."

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 264 F. D.—14-5-05.—67.—C.P.



(98)

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

00094

No. 1704 E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 1579 E.B., dated the 27th April 1905.

By order, etc.,

Charles Cotter

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

S I M L A ;

The 6th May 1905.

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 157, dated the 8th March 1905 (Recd: with letter No. 14 dated 7th April 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)





(99)

The Ahl-ul-Jezair (see "Gazetteer" of Baghdad, Simla, 1889, p. 128) are said to have disappeared as a tribe since they were attacked by the Turkish Government about three years ago.

BUSSORAH;
January 14, 1905.

J. H. MONAHAN,
Acting British Consul.

No. 1578-E. B., dated Simla, the 27th April 1905 (*Confidential*).

Endorsed by the Government of India, Foreign Department.

(1) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 74 (Confidential), dated 31st January 1905. (Received with letter No. 9, dated 3rd March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(2) Letter No. 135, dated 12th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosure.

(3) Letter No. 126, dated 12th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosures.

(4) Telegram dated 24th March 1905, from His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah.

(5) Letter No. 143, dated 19th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosure.

(6) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 62, dated 24th January 1905. (Received with letter No. 10, dated 10th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(7) Letter No. 147, dated 26th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosure.

(8) Letter No. 148, dated 26th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosure.

(9) Letter No. 149, dated 26th March 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and enclosure.

(10) Despatch No. 99, dated 7th February 1905, from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne.

(11) Despatch No. 111 (Confidential), dated 14th February 1905, from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne. (Received with letter No. 11, dated 17th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(12) Communication from the Admiralty to the Foreign Office, No. M—N.L. 2425, dated 4th March 1905, with enclosure. (Received with letter No. 12, dated 24th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(13) Letter No. 164, dated 7th April 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, with enclosure.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Quarter Master General's Department (Intelligence Branch) for information, in continuation of Foreign Department endorsement No. 13 dated 10th 1905.

No. 1579-E. B., dated Simla, the 27th April 1905 (*Confidential*).

Endorsed by the Government of India, Foreign Department.

(1) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 74 (Confidential), dated 31st January 1905, and enclosures. (Received with letter No. 9, dated 3rd March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(2) Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 6th March 1905.

(3) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 62, dated 24th January 1905. (Received with letter No. 10, dated 10th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(4) Despatch from Mr. Townley to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 99, dated 7th February 1905.

(5) Despatch No. 111 (Confidential), dated 14th February 1905, from Mr. Townley, to the Marquess of Lansdowne. (Received with letter No. 11, dated 17th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(6) Communication from the Admiralty to the Foreign Office, No. M—N.L. 2425, dated 4th March 1905, with enclosure. (Received with letter No. 12, dated 24th March 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 1362-E. B., dated 10th April 1905.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. [illegible]



attach a list of tribes under his control and their fighting strength, which I have recently received from Mr. Monahan, at Bussorah. It will be noticed that Sadun Pasha and tribes allied to him can produce about 7,500 fighting men, if they all combined. The Mushir Feizi Pasha is now and old man, and rather wanting in energy, but he has had experience in dealing with a former insurrection in the Yemen, which he suppressed with ruthless severity.

I have, etc.,
F. R. MAUNSELL,
Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Principal Tribes in Bussorah Vilayet.

I. Beni Lam (desert tribe from Amara to Kotal Amara).

Principal Sheikh, Ghadban, 15,000 horse, 10,000 foot; directly under him are—

		Horse.	Foot.
1. Hassan-el-Jandil	Brothers	2,000	3,000
2. Muhammad-el-Jandil			
3. Gassab		1,500	2,500

(Each of these three has under him a sub-tribe.)

Not directly under him are the following sub-tribes:—

		Horse.	Foot.
1. El Amara	4 Sheikhs	8,000	3,000
2. El Shanana	4 do.	12,000	200
3. Sherkha	3 do.	3,000	100

Attached to Beni Lam is—

Half of Segwand tribe (the other half is Persian (living along the Lower Kerka Valley in Persia.

II. Al-bu-Muhammad (marsh tribe from Amara to near Howeiza on sian frontier).

Principal Sheikh, Saihud, 3,000 canoes, 6,000 foot.

Sub-tribes—

	Canoes.	Foot.
1. Hatim and Faleh (brothers)	3,000	6,000
2. Esman and Zabun (brothers)	600	1,000
3. El Sudan	1,500	200
	900	2,000
4. Souad	900	2,000

I . Muntafik—

Falih Pasha	400 followers
Muziad Pasha	200 „
Muzial „	200 „
Sadun „	600 „

(A.. the above followers of these four Pashas are horsemen armed with Martinis).

Attached to Muntafik—

Sheikh Deshem
„ Khairallah
„ Gabir
„ Hesham

} In all about 6,000 horse, armed with Martinis and Mausers, and all for the present attached to Sadun Pasha.



100

00097

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1742- E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information.

By order, &c.,

Clement Weston

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foregin Department,

Simla,

The 9 May 1905.

Despatch No. 185 (confidential) dated 21st March 1905, from Sir N.O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.

(Received with letter No. 15, dated 14th April 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office).





(101)

00098

KOWEIT.

Recd: on 1-5-05, with Pol: Secy's Letter, No.15, dated 14-4-1905.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(March 27.)

Section I.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne-(Received March 27.)

(No. 185.Confidential)

Constantinople, March 21, 1905.

My Lord,

I learn confidentially that the Sultan has been endeavouring to obtain assurances from the Sheikh of Koweit of his loyalty and unswerving fidelity. The Sheikh appears to have given an evasive reply, and he is accused by the Vali of Bussorah of endeavouring to win over certain Arab tribes to his side and to show leanings towards the English, as manifested by his allowing them to open a post office in his town.

I have &c.,

Sd/- N.R. O'Conor.





(*Received on 17th April 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 13, dated 31st March 1905.*)

Enclosures in Foreign Office covering letter of March 9, 1905.

Mr. Townley to Marquess of Lansdowne.

CONSTANTINOPLE,
February 28, 1905.

(No. 132.)
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to forward to Your Lordship herewith, copies of despatches from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad, reporting movements of troops accompanying the Turkish expedition in Central Arabia.

I have, etc.,
WALTER TOWNLEY.

Consul-General Newmarch to Mr. Townley.

BAGHDAD,
27th January 1905.

(No. 73-9.)
(GIVING EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF SAME DATE SENT TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA).

Consul-General Newmarch to Mr. Townsley.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL,

BAGHDAD,
January 25, 1905.

(No. 69-8.)
Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith information which I have received confidentially regarding the details of Turkish troops lately assembled at Nejef for the expedition into Central Arabia.

I have, etc.,
L. S. NEWMARCH, *Major.*

The troops sent to Nejef are as under :—

Mushir ... ... Feizi Pasha

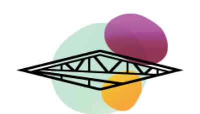
* * * * * * *

The other half were used as transport animals.

P.S.—Liwa (Major General) Yusuf Pasha * * * to join the expedition.

P.P.S.—It is also rumoured * * * * proceed when and how he liked.

75



(Received on 24th April 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 14, dated 7th April 1905.)

ARABIA. [March 13.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 5.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received March 13.)

CONSTANTINOPLE,
March 8, 1905.

(No. 157.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Maunsell, Military Attaché to the Embassy, respecting the progress of the Turkish expedition into Nejd from the Vilayet of Baghdad.

I have, etc.,
N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Maunsell to Sir N. O'Conor.

CONSTANTINOPLE,
March 7, 1905.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that in an interview with the War Minister yesterday, he mentioned that the expendition from Nejef to Nejd, under the Mushir Feizi Pasa, was still on its way towards Hail, and he expected it would reach there shortly, the distance being reckoned as twenty-five days from Nejef to Hail, but he did not seem very sanguine about it, and would not say where Feizi Pasha was at present.

He hoped to be able to send an expedition from Medina to assist by attacking Ibn Saud from that side, as previously planned, but it had not yet left Medina. Feizi Pasha has taken seven battalions with him, and these with the four previously sent to assist Ibn Rashid, and which have suffered defeat, practically denudes the Baghdad Vilayet of regular troops, as there are also the troops in Katar and Katif to be deducted.

The Redif battalions are not of much military value in that corps, and many of the battalions have never been formed.

Sadun Pasha and the various sections of the Muntifik Arabs are reported to show signs of restlessness again, and, in connection with this question, I beg to

76

(102)

00099

Confidential.

1507
9.5.05

No. 237, dated Bushire, the 27th May (received 5th June) 1905.

From—CAPTAIN A. P. TREVOR, I. A., First Assistant to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 219, dated 14th May 1905, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally-noted communication received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah, regarding Nejd affairs.

No. 26, dated 19th May 1905.

1340
23-5-05

No. 26 (Secret and Confidential), dated the 19th May 1905.

From—F. E CROW, Esqr., His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—The RIGHT HON'BLE SIR N. O'CONOR, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

From further telegrams sent by the Marshal Feyzi Pasha and by Abdur Rahman-es-Saood to the palace, copies of which have been handed to me, it appears that Riad, Washem, Sedyr and their dependencies have been formed into a Caza of which the markez or centre will be Riad and that Abdur Rahman-es-Saood has been made Kaimakam of it, on solemnly taking an oath of allegiance to the Sultan.

The Marshal in one telegram, which is partly in cypher and leaves much to conjecture, repeats the substance of his reports sent *via* Medina regarding his entry into Kassim and his meeting with Lieutenant-General Sudgi at Jebb. The appointments of Salih bin Hassan to the Kaimakamlik of Boreyda and of Abdul Aziz Suleymi to the Mudirlik of Aneyza are also mentioned. In another telegram repeated to the head-quarters of the VI Army Corps at Baghdad, the Marshal states that the notables of Riad came to his camp near Aneyza and proffered their submission, which was accepted, and prayers were said for the Sultan and thanks expressed by the Chiefs for the benefits they had received. The Marshal states that he has ten battalions with him in Kassim, of which four are at Jeheffa. (?) There appear also to be three battalions at Waksa awaiting transport to Nejef. He has sent Lieutenant-Colonel Mazhar Bey with a guard of 120 men and 350 camels under the guidance of the Sheikhs of Jeib (?) to get provisions and forage from Khahe (?) with instructions to proceed as far as Medina for them if none are found at the former place.

In conversation with the Vali His Excellency informed me that the people of Kassim were well disposed to the troops and willing to come under administrative control, but that they would have nothing to do with Ibn Rashid. He said the latter left the Marshal before his entry into Kassim and returned to Hayil.

I am informed that the Amir showed some reluctance to obey the Marshal's orders, but on being confronted with an Iradé of the Sultan directing his withdrawal he left the troops and departed to Hayil.

Copy.
No. 20.

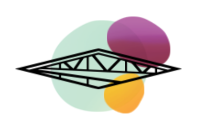
BASRAH;
19th May 1905.

Sent to His Majesty's Resident and Consul-General at Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

(Sd.) F. E. CROW,
His Britannic Majesty's Consul.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C253 F. D.—16-6-05.—61.—R. S. W.





(103)

Confidential.

00100

No. 1792- E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No.1704 E.B. dated 6th May 1905.

By order,&c.,

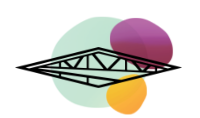
[signature]

Asstt. Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Dept:,
Simla;
The 17th May 1905.

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 3rd April 1905.





(104)
00101

Extract from the Diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 3rd April 1905.

March 29th.

I have received the following information from two different sources and I believe it to be correct.

The following influential members of the Arab community at Baghdad were arrested last evening (28th March) by the Vali and sent out of Baghdad. Nobody however knows where they have been sent :-

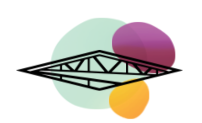
(I) Shukri Effendi Aloosi Zada: a teacher at the Haidar-khana Madrassi. This man is said to have very advanced views both in Political and religious matters.

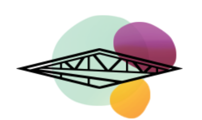
(2) Thabit Effendi Aloosi (a cousin of No.1). He was last year the Reşi-el-Baladiya (Head of the Municipality) for Baghdad. A connection of his was married to a late Vali of Baghdad: either Namyk Pasha or his immediate predecessor. That a Turk should have married an Arab caused some surprise at the time.

(3) Abdul Razak Effendi, a treacher at the Adamyeh School at Mauddham.

(4) Haji Ahmed ibn El Assafi, a wealthy Nedjdi merchant, for many years settled in Baghdad. He deals principally in coffee. He has a brother by the name of Haji Salah, also

a





a wealthy merchant. It was Haji Ahmed's clerk who accompanied the Sheikh of Bahrein's cousin when the latter visited me last week.

It is said that the Vali invited the above four separately to his house yesterday evening and when they had all assembled he showed them his order for their arrest. some say they were then and there handcuffed and about midnight sent out of town.

They are evidently political suspects and it may be they are connected with "The Arabian Movement" (vide the London letter in the Times of India for the week ending 15th February 1905) which is said to be in progress in Mesopotamia, Syria and Palestine.

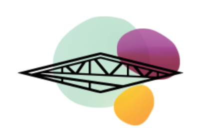
Some 30 members of the Hillif Secret Society of Karbala, who have been imprisoned here for the last two years, were also deported to Mosul yesterday. It is said they have been sent there to be tried.

Another reason given for deporting the two Aloosi Zadas and Abdul Razak Effendi is that they have written a book in praise of the Wahabi religion. This book was sent to Egypt to be printed and the cost of printing it was financed by Haji Ahmed ibn El Assafi.

It is also said that these four individuals will not be allowed to live in future in any Arabian town of the

Ottoman





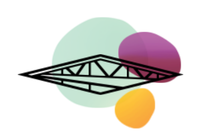
106

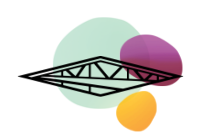
00103

Ottoman Empire.

Another reason given for this deportation is that they have been corresponding with Ibn Saoud and the Sheikh of Koweit and that the Police, on paying a surprise visit to their houses, discovered some incriminating documents.

The Sheikh of Bahrein's cousin, when here, stayed with Haji Ahmed ibn El Assafi. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).





00104 (107)

Confidential. No. 2002 -E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 1792-E.B., dated the 11th May 1905.

By order, etc.,

Clonmastocks

Asstt: Secretary to the Govt: of India.

Foreign Department,
Simla;
The 26th May 1905.

Extract from the diary of the Poltical Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 17th April 1905.





(108)

C0165

Extract from the diary of the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia for the week ending the 17th April 1905.

April 12th.

The Turkish steamer "Mosul" left Baghdad this morning with the following troops for Nasariyah:-

Two hundred infantry (Redifs) under the command of Reshid Effendi.

(They had arrived from Arbil about a month ago).

Twenty artillerymen with one mountain gun.

Troops are also being sent from Diwaniah and Samawato Nasariyah.

I believe the foregoing information to be correct.

It is said that Sadoon of the Muntafik who had a quarrel last year with Sheikh Mehdi of the Ma'adan, lately invited the latter Sheikh to his tent on the plea that he wished to make peace with him. Sheikh Mehdi accepted the invitation and was very well received by Sadoon. Subsequently Sadoon asked Mehdi to get his three sons and brother to join him at Sadoon's camp as he (Sadoon) was desirous of making peace with them as well. Sheikh Mehdi induced his three sons and brother to accept Sadoon's invitation. When they arrived Sheikh Sadoon treated them hospitably and the day was spent in great rejoicing. At night Sadoon ordered his negro slaves

to





00106 (109)

to murder the five of them in their tent and this was done.

The widows of the murdered Sheikhs complained to Hamid Pasha (the Mutasarif of Nasariyah) who reported the matter to Baghdad. Baghdad telegraphed to Constantinople, and has now received orders to send troops against Sadoon.

It is said that Sadoon has since made two night attacks on Nasariyah. The shops and bazaars at Nasariyah are reported to be closed and the greatest confusion is said to prevail among the inhabitants. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

April 15th.

I received the following information on the 14th April 1905:-

"It is said that Faizi Pasha has sent back another regiment to Nejef as he thinks he has more troops than are necessary for the expedition."

"He also sent to Nejef a detachment of 12 men under a lieutenant to replenish his treasure chest. Kavass Muhammad Dervish's brother, the Sergeant, was one of the detachment. On nearing Nejef the Sergeant's camel went lame and he was unable to keep up with the others. About an hour's distance from Nejef he was attacked by several Arabs, severely wounded, and stripped of all he had. He is at present at the military hospital at Baghdad and is doing well".

"The





(110)

00107

"The Sergeant says that there has been a heavy mortality among the camels of the force, over 750 having died on the way from Nejef to Leena".

"About five days ago two hundred camel loads of flour and rusks were sent to Faizi Pasha from Baghdad."

"Haji Abdul, (a British subject) the muleteer, says that Zaptiehs are still out in the districts commandeering camels, and that although his camels, which were detained at Khanakin have been released at your intervention, he is afraid that further attempts to press them may still be made".

Note. - I think I shall be able to prevent any further attempts to commandeer his camels. (Sent to Embassy, Constantinople).

x x x x x





(111)

20108

[Confidential.]

No. 313, dated Bushire, the 8th (received 17th) July 1905.

From—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Offg. Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—S. M. FRASER, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter No. 237, dated 27th May 1905, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted communication received from His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, regarding Nejd Affairs.

No. 38, dated 28th June 1905.

Copy.

His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Bussorah, to His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

No 38, 28th June 1905.

SIR,

Very scanty information has reached me concerning the Turkish troops in Kassim, but I learn that on the 25th of May they moved to Shehiy which seems to be about 30 miles South-West of Boreyda. There should still be 10 battalions in Kassim. From advices received at the Head-quarters of the VI Army Corps at Baghdad they appear to be in great straits from want of money and supplies. The men are on half rations and unable to buy shrouds for their dead. Instructions were sent to this Vilayet to send money to Kassim but so far only 1,500 liras have been forwarded.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) F. E. CROW.

No. 28.

Forwarded to His Majesty's Resident at Bushire with the compliments of the undersigned.

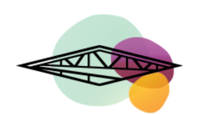
(Sd.) F. E. CROW.

BUSSORAH;

1st July 1905.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C395 F. D.—26-7-05.—67—E. A.D'S.





(112)

00109

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2497-E.B.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 2002 E.B., dated the 26th May 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secy. to the Govt of India.

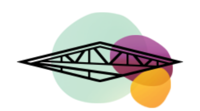
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 29th June 1905.

(Enclosures to letter No. 20, dated 19th May 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office:-)

(1) Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 292 dated the 2nd May 1905, with enclosure.

(2) Despatch from Mr. F. E. Crow, His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah, to Sir N. O'Conor, No. 16 Confidential, dated the 14th April 1905.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 3194 F. D.—2-7-05.—100.—B. B. S.





00110

(113)

(Received on 5th June 1905, with Political Secretary's Letter No. 20, dated 19th May 1905.)

ARABIA. [May 6.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 6.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

Basrah, April 14, 1905.

Not printed.*

* See enclosure to letter No. 188, dated the 28th April 1905, from Major Cox.

(Received on 5th June 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 20, dated 19th May 1905.)

ARABIA. [May 8.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 292.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May 2, 1905.*

With reference to my despatch No. 200-Confidential, dated the 28th March last, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Acting Consul at Basrah relative to a conversation which he held with the Wali respecting Koweit and Bahrein.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Acting Consul Monahan to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Basrah, March 31, 1905.*

With reference to my telegram No 22 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to report that I had a conversation with the Wali on the 23rd instant. I asked him whether there was any news about Nejd affairs. He said he had no important news, and asked me whether I had heard anything. I said I had heard that Ibn Rashid was raiding tribes near Kasim. He said: "Are those tribes attached to Ibn Saoud?" I said I understood they were. The Wali would not pursue the subject. He said Abd-ur-Rahman, father of Ibn Saoud, had left Koweit. I said I supposed the Sheikh of Koweit was keeping clear of Nejd affairs. He said: "He is pretending to keep clear, but is secretly taking part." I said: "I suppose Koweit is to remain in the same position. I believe that this has been clearly understood at Constantinople." He said:

1

"Of course if there has been such a decision (Karar) the *status quo* will be maintained, but the relations between the Wali of Basrah and the Sheikh of Koweit cannot remain as they are" (literally "there must be a new account between them"). "It is a matter of common right and common justice that I should be able to get back criminals and deserters from Koweit. As it is the Persian authorities at Mohammerah attend to my requests, while the Sheikh of Koweit will not." I asked whether such cases of the Sheikh harbouring criminals or deserters had occurred lately. He said: "There have been small assault cases. But it is a question of the ordinary rights of men. Such cases should be impossible, Koweit being so near Basrah." I gathered that the Wali had really no serious complaint to make of the Sheikh's conduct in this matter, but was rather talking because he felt that he should say something. I was struck by the fact that he abstained from asserting or implying that the Sheikh was an Ottoman official, a Kaimakam under the Wali of Basrah. His immediate predecessor, Fakhri Pasha, in conversation with me clearly asserted this.

I mentioned outrages and piracies committed by Katif Arabs on natives of Bahrein about which I had already made representations in writing and orally. I said as clearly as I could: "The natives of Bahrein apply to me for assistance and protection." He replied that proper instructions had been sent to the new Mutessarif, who was a good man and would certainly attend to them.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) J. H. MONAHAN.

(*Received on 5th June 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 20, dated 19th May 1905.*)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 6.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Mr. Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 6.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Sir,

Basrah, April 14, 1905.

From the 26th March to the 10th April the authorities here were in constant telegraphic communication with the Sandjaks of Amara and Montifik, with reference to the disturbed state of affairs in those districts.

The Mutessarif of Amara reported that Gadban, of the Beni Lam, was fighting with Seyhood, of the El Bu Mohammed, and Gadban himself telegraphed to the Wali, complaining of Seyhood's aggression. A Commission from Basrah, at Amara, is supposed to be trying to pacify the Arabs. The Bimbashi of Gendarmerie at Amara reported that, in the inter-tribal fighting at Mejer Saghir, the El Bu Mohammed lost 120 killed and wounded, including Seyhood's nephew, Mutlak-el-Kaheyt, and his brother Khalifa. Seyhood had been defeated, and fled to Hashra, and the El Azerij were at Hashra in force.

On the 10th instant the Mutessarif of Amara confirmed the defeat of Seyhood, and said the loss on both sides was great. The El Azerij were then burning huts in Mejer Kebir, and the local Government offices were in danger. He pressed for troops from Baghdad, and said the mischief was spreading.

The Mutessarif of Montifik on the 30th ultimo anticipated that matters would come to a climax in a few days, and urged that a report to the Seraskeray would be untimely.

2



He suggested that the Vali should move the Sultan to send troops from Baghdad, Diwanieh, and Samawa; and stated that he continued to egg on the tribes hostile to Sadun, to march against him and check his activity, having no other means of counteracting the evil influence of this treacherous individual.

On the 11th instant the Mutessarif sent the following telegram to the Wali:—

"Your idea of sending two battalions to Nasriye and the Erbil Redif battalion to Amara is excellent. I was taken in by Sadun, and am losing no time in breaking up his arrangements and showing him that I am not deceived. When these two battalions arrive I fully expect to smash him and make him obey Government orders. Mizel Pasha, who has arrived at Nasriye from Basrah, is the most faithful of Sadun's kinsmen. If required, I shall keep him at Nasriye, and employ him in the Government interest."

On the 11th instant Sadun Pasha himself sent the following high-spirited message by telegraph to the Wali:—

"We have several times appealed to your Excellency with reference to our oppression by the Bedour, and asked you to expel them from our lands and stop the troops from attacking our tribes. There has been no result. We beg you in the name of justice to do what we previously asked. If you do not listen to us, we shall be obliged to expel them ourselves. Greetings. Sadun, the protected of God."

I learn that one battalion has been dispatched from Samawa and one from Nejef to Montifik, and that the Erbil Redif battalion has been sent from Baghdad to Amara.

I have, etc.,
(Sd.) F. E. CROW.

(Received on 12th June 1905, with Political Secretary's letter No. 21, dated 26th May 1905.)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 13.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Consul Crow to Sir N. O'Conor.—(Received at Foreign Office, May 13.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

Basrah, April 22, 1905.

(Not printed.)

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 450 F. D.—24-6-05.—40.—J. D.



(115)

Confidential.

00112

No. 2996. E. B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2325 Date 18.8.05 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 2497 E.B. dated the 29th June 1905.

By order, etc.,

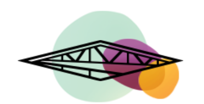
[signature]

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 4th August 1905.

Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No.398 dated the 11th June 1905 (Received with letter No.26 dated 30th June 1905 from the Secretary Political Department India Office.)

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 151 F. D.—1-6-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





(116)

C O P Y.

Recd. on 17-7-5 with Pol. Secy's
letter, No. 26 dated 30-6-1905.

ASIATIC TURKEY

June 19.
Section 2.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.- (Recd. June 19)

(No. 398.)

Tehran-
Therapia, June 11, 1905.

My Lord,

With reference to Mr. Consul Crow's despatch No.16, Secret and Confidential, of the 22nd April last, sent under flying seal to your Lordship, I have the honour to report that telegrams which I have received within the last four days from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad indicate that an alarming condition of unrest prevails among the tribes inhabiting the regions along the lower parts of the Tigris and Euphrates.

At Hindiah, near Hillah, the Karout tribe resisted by force of arms an attempt made by the local authorities, with support of 100 cavalry under an officer, to

collect



C O P Y.

Recd. on 17-7-5 with Pol. Secy's letter, No. 26 dated 30-6-1905.

ASIATIC TURKEY

June 19.
Section 2.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.- (Recd.June19)

(No. 398.)

Tehran-
Therapia, June 11, 1905.

My Lord,

With reference to Mr. Consul Crow's despatch No.15, Secret and Confidential, of the 22nd April last, sent under flying seal to your Lordship, I have the honour to report that telegrams which I have received within the last four days from His Majesty's Consul-General at Baghdad indicate that an alarming condition of unrest prevails among the tribes inhabiting the regions along the lower parts of the Tigris and Euphrates.

At Hindiah, near Hillah, the Karoul tribe resisted by force of arms an attempt made by the local authorities, with support of 100 cavalry under an officer, to collect



collect taxes from them, and in a night attack subsequently made by the Turkish force lost nine killed and some wounded. On the following day the tribes took the offensive, and drove the Turks to Talegiij, which they proceeded to beseige.

In this predicament the Turks were driven to requesting the intervention of Siud Mahomet Kazivini of Hillah, who induced the Arabs to withdraw, but the tribes are still in revolt.

Another incident has been the firing by Arabs on the Turkish steamer "Ressifa" between Baghdad and Bussorah. The culprits are believed to be the Shamartoga tribe, and Major Newmarch reports that Mahomet Pasha Daghestani is said to have been instructed to inflict punishment on them.

Serious fighting is expected in the Nejef district, where a quarrel about some land near Kufa, near the north-east extremity of the lake, has already led to bloodshed between the local tribes and the Khazail Arabs. Three persons have been killed and two wounded. Other tribes are taking sides in the quarrel, and the affair may become serious.

Major Newmarch also reports that the Kurds and Arabs near Sulimanieh, in the eastern part of the Mosul Vilayet are said to be rebellious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'Conor.





CONFIDENTIAL.

118

00115

No. 3599-E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No.2996-E.B., dated the 4th August 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

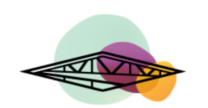
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla;

The 22nd September 1905.

Despatch from Sir N.O'Conor, No.521, dated the 31st July 1905, to the Marquess of Lansdowne (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No.34, dated 25th August 1905).





~~(This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government).~~

Arabia.

Recd.on 11.9.05 With Pol.Secy's.{ (August 7.) Section 1.

Confidential. Letter,No.34 dated 25.8.1905.

No.1.

Sir N.O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.-(Received August 7.)

(No.521.)

My Lord, Constantinople, July 31, 1905.

With reference to my despatch No.398 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from His Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad on the subject of the disturbances near Tawarij, and reporting that the incident is closed.

I have, &c.

Sd/- N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No.1.

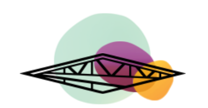
Consul-General Newmarch to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No.474/45.) Bagdad, June 27, 1905.

Sir,

In continuation of my telegram of the 7th instant about disturbances near Tawarij, I have the honour to report, on the authority of the British Vice-Consul at Karbala, that peace

has





120

117

has been restored on the following conditions:-

(1). The Arabs to receive back all the property taken from them.

(2). The Turkish officer responsible for the attack on the Arabs to be dismissed.

(3). A reduction of the amount claimed from the Arabs as taxes.

(4). The prosecution at law of the officer responsible for the deaths and disgrace of the Arabs.

2. The incident is said to be at an end.

I have, &c.

Sd/- L.S.NEWMARCH,Major.





3. Occupation of Bubiyan Island by the Turks.

(for P.C. vide file $\frac{53}{7C}$)





(Copy).

No: T/10 of 1905.

Dated 11th June 1905.

From,

Major P.Z.Cox, C.I.E.,
Offg: Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To,

S.M.Fraser Esquire, C.I.E,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in your Telegram No: 2135-E.B. dated 5th instant, I have consulted Sheikh Mobarek and have the honour to report the result.

2. In the first place the Sheikh stated that the idea of his maintaining a post on Bubiyan Island commended itself to him very much, but that he could not venture to carry out the proposal, if he had to sustain the undivided onus or odium which such a move would involve. He continued that he had already suffered so much from the retaliative amenities of the Turks, alike in connection with (1) the imprisonment of his Agent, (2) the arrest of his friends (3) interference with his Fao property, and murder of his employes; that he naturally hesitated to give them cause for any further reprisals.

If on the other hand it was quite understood, as I assured him I believed to be the case, that the British Government were prepared to inform the Turkish Government that they recognised his claim over Bubiyan and were advising him to institute or supporting him in instituting

a





a post or posts there; then he, Sheikh Mobarek, was only too glad to carry out the project.

3. Asked what form of assistance he would require from Government, he replied:-

(a) That Government should maintain a Political Agent at Koweit (i.e. as a practical permanency) to give him support and advice.

(b) That Government should occasionally send a man-of-war to Koweit and up the Khor Abdullah.

(c) That Government should defray the cost of the guards' quarters - estimated at Rs 500/-, and of their maintenance @ Rs 100/- per mensem.

4. At this juncture I produced the Chart and discussed the position and strength of the post.

As to strength, he expressed the opinion that 10 ~~de~~ men were sufficient for one guard and at any rate not more than 20.

As to position, he strongly advocated 3 block-houses not one only.

(At this point I solicit reference to the "Sphinx"'s Survey of the Khor Abdullah).

He considered the most important position to be on th the Eastern-most point of Ras al Geit apparently about 1½ miles North-East of the present Turkish Storehouse. This is strategically the most important point on the Island. The Khor Sabiya is not navigable on an ebb tide, and therefore all craft en route to Zobeir must pass the Khor Abdullah and a post at Ras al Gheit will be palpable to all.

The second post he agrees might be on the North-Eastern-most point of Bubiyan South of the Eastern extremity of Warba Island, which he also claims.

The third position to which he ~~alludes~~ also attaches special importance would be the Jasiret-es-Soof of "Wool Island" one of the islands in the creek almost due east of Umkasr Post, and probably the Island shown on the top

margin





margin of the "Sphinx"'s Survey.

Sheikh Mobarek claims that to this Island especially his claims cannot be disputed, as it has been used ~~from~~ from time immemorial and still is, as a depot for the wool export of the hinterland, and all the wool merchants from Koweit proceed there regularly at certain seasons.

I informed him that I had only been instructed to discuss Bubiyan with him, and in that connection, one post on the North-East of the Island to balance the Turkish posts at Umkasr and Al Gheit. He begged me however to communicate his complete views to Government.

5. As a matter of fact, instead of threatening to support Sheikh Mobarek in placing a post at the North end of Bubiyan to balance the Turkish posts at Umkasr and Al Gheit, would it not be possible and at the same time more effective, and perhaps more logical to threaten them with a block-house opposite Al Gheit and another opposite Al Kasr, - in order to balance them?

I suggested to Sheikh Mobarek that if the Turkish and Koweit posts were with regard to one other within range of sight and shot, would not friction be likely to arise, but he replied that this would not be the case, for as it was the guards of the two posts were generally on their beam ends and dependent on his people for the necessaries of life- and this would always be the case.

6. In the concluding sentence of the your telegram under reply, I gathered that I am asked my views especially as to

(i) The support which would be necessary to give Mobarek.

(ii) The absolute reservation of the right to send an Agent to Koweit from time to time.

With regard to (i) Sheikh Mobarek did not make the slightest hint in the direction of a subsidy, and I imagine suggested our defraying the ~~small~~ small estimated cost or erection and maintenance (i.e. Rs 500/- for building

and





(125)
00122

and Rs 100/- per mensem for maintaining each post), more because it would give Government a direct connection with the project, than that the refund of the money was any object to him.

The Sheikh has however hinted once or twice before that a subsidy would be acceptable, and if the present proposals take shape, perhaps the present would be considered a convenient occasion for starting it.

With reference to (ii) Sheikh Mobarek without any prompting from me stated unhesitatingly as the first condition on which the undertaking should be put in hand, was the British Government should keep an Agent at Koweit. Apart from this, when reading the opening words of the Secretary of State's telegram in the present connection it at once struck me that it seemed a pity that the opening of negociations with regard to Bubiyan should be admitted in any way (to the Turkish Government) to hinge upon the fact of the absence of our Agent, which I trust is only temporary. Possibly I do not interpret the sentence aright and His Majesty's Government have no such intention.

7. In conclusion I would observe that it is difficult for me to advise satisfactorily as to the best position for the post or posts without acquainting myself with the features of the ground on the spot, and it is also important that the ~~Se~~Jesiret-el-Soof mentioned in paragraph 4 should be identified and reported on. I did not think it prudent to proceed there with^out^ reference to Government, but if there is not considered to be any objection thereto, it would be convenient if I could be informed accordingly by telegram.

I have the honou r to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
sd/- P.Z.COX. Major,
Offg: Poll: Resdt: Persian Gulf.





(126)
00123

Tel. to

Foreign
Simla.

d/12th June 1905.

[P.] Reference your telegram of 5th June, No. 2135 E.B. Mubarak is quite willing, but my written report will reach you on 19th, — if possible please await its arrival. A full explanation by telegraph is a matter of difficulty.

Sent.
12.VI.05
4 p.m.





(127)

CONFIDENTIAL.

00124

No. 2185- E.B.

th one
are copy.

A copy of the foregoing correspondence is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information and early report with reference to the telegram from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2136-E.B., dated the 5th June 1905.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1620 Date 22-6-05 PERSIAN GULF.

By order, etc.,

Louis Dane [signature]

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,
Simla;
The 8th June 1905.

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l follow.

(1) Secret despatch No. 25, External, dated 4th February 1905 to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

(2) Telegram from ---ditto---- dated 22nd April 1904.

(3) Telegram to ---ditto---, No. 1358-E.A., dated the 27th April 1904.

(4) Telegram to ---ditto---, No. 1387-E.A., dated the 29th April 1904.

(5) Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office dated the 3rd March 1904.

(6)





(6) Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office dated the 18th April 1904 and enclosures.

(7) Telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India dated the 18th May 1904.

(8) Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office dated 3rd May 1904.

(9) Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office dated 13th May 1904 with enclosure.

(10) Despatch from Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 372 Confidential, dated 16th May 1904.

(11) Secret despatch to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 57 External, dated 16th March 1905.

(12) Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office dated 11th April 1905. (Received with letter No. 15, dated 14th April 1905, from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(13) Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office, dated 19th April 1905 and enclosures. (Received with letter No. 18, dated 5th May 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office.)

(14) Telegram from His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 31st May 1905.





Telegram, P., dated London, the 22nd April 1904.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To—His Excellency the Viceroy.

Bubiyan Island. I have caused your Foreign Secret letter, dated 4th February 1904, to be communicated to His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople. His view is that the claim by His Majesty's Government that the island is the property of the Sheikh of Koweit will be resented as strongly by the Porte now as in 1902 and he points out that the occupation of the post on the north of the island on behalf of the Sheikh would be contrary to the principle of maintaining the *status quo* on which he has based a representation to the Porte referred to in his Despatch dated the 4th April 1902, No. 2. But he thinks that it would be possible to press for the withdrawal of the Turkish post from the island and to inform the Porte after some months, if this representation should produce no result, that unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, we shall be constrained to support the Sheikh in establishing a post on the (? the island). He suggests, however, that the whole force will probably be removed before very long if the question is allowed to lie dormant as the number of troops in occupation has been reduced during the last two years from 20 to 6, and he asks that it may be ascertained definitely whether any Turkish troops are still on the island. Please furnish this information and let me have your opinion on Sir N. O'Conor's views. He also points out that the Turks will take it as a practical abandonment by His Majesty's Government of the Sheikh's claim to Um Kasr if we ask only for the evacuation of Bubiyan without mentioning the former.

Telegram, P., No. 1[illegible]7-E.A., dated Si[illegible] the [illegible]th April 1904.

From—[illegible]

To—Lieute[illegible] C. A. [illegible]ball, C.I.E., Political Resident in t[illegible] [Per]sian Gulf, Bushire.

Are th[er]e still any Turkish troops [o]n the island of Bubiyan? Please ascertain and let m[e] know.

Telegram, P., dated B[ushire], the 26th April 1904.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. K[emball], C.I.E., Political Resident in the [Persian] Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

Three weeks ago, when our Native Agent left Koweit, he [rep]orted that there were ten Turkish soldiers on Bubiyan. I am instructing C[aptai]n Knox [to] make fresh enquiries in the matter from Fao, and communicate [the] result [to] you.

Telegram, P., No. 1358-E. A. dated Simla, the 27th April 1904.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Bubiyan island. Please refer to your telegram dated the 22nd April 1904. Enquiry has been made through the Resident in the Persian Gulf whether there are still Turkish troops in the island. The case of the Government of India is stated in paragraph 5 of our despatch, dated the 4th February 1904. Sheikh Mubarak's claim to Um Kasr has been weakened by acquiescence in the occupation of that place by the Turks, who have constructed a considerable fort there apparently in infringement of the *status quo*. As His Majesty's Government were only prepared in 1902 to resist Turkish advance on Subieh, I did not suppose that the Sheikh's claim to Um Kasr would be supported, more especially as it rests mainly on his ancestral connection with the place which

1



ceased in the 17th century. His claim to Bubiyan is much stronger, while Turkish claims and *de facto* position there are much weaker. Moreover there is substantial geographical distinction between the mainland, where the Turks have long been in the neighbourhood, and the island where they are not known ever to have been at all. I would urge that the matter be not allowed to rest and that the Turks should either be required to withdraw their troops and destroy their post on Bubiyan and to recognise this as an integral portion of the Sheikh's possession, or that he should be allowed to erect a post on the island as proposed by us. His claims to Um Kasr might be utilised to secure this result. If the present position continues much longer after matter has been prominently brought to notice during my tour to the Gulf it will hereafter be almost impossible to assert the claims of the Sheikh to the island, on which our right to be consulted in any railway scheme affecting Khor Abdulla could most easily be based. Our influence in Koweit and the neighbourhood will certainly be weakened, if we do not secure the Sheikh's rights about which he spoke to me.

Telegram, P., dated Bushire, the 27th April 1904.

From—CAPTAIN S. G. KNOX, First Assistant to the Political Resident in [illegible] Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

Please refer to your telegram, dated the 25th April 1904. The Assistant [illegible]erintendent of Telegraphs, Fao, has wired that there are ten Turkish soldiers [illegible] the command of a non-commissioned officer on the Bubiyan island. He [illegible] that they live in a tent and that every month they are relieved b[illegible] [illegible]he [illegible] at Fa[illegible]

Telegram, P., No. 1387-E. A., dated Simla, the 29th April 1904.

From—His Excellency the Viceroy,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

Please refer to my telegram dated the 27th April 1904. Ten Turkish soldiers under the command of a non-commissioned officer [illegible]re reported by the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs at Fao, to be on [illegible]he Bubiyan island. They live in a tent and are relieved by other men from the Fao Fort once a month.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 306 F. D.—5-5-04—44—B. B.



(*Received on 9th May with Political Secretary's letter, No. 17, dated 22nd April 1904*).

FOREIGN OFFICE TO INDIA OFFICE.

April 18th, 1904.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of March 3rd, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to transmit to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, copy of a despatch to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the proposals of the Government of India with regard to the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubiyan Island and Um Kasr.

A copy of Sir N. O'Conor's reply is also enclosed.

Lord Lansdowne would be glad to be favoured with Mr. Brodrick's observations on His Excellency's suggestions for dealing with the situation, and I am to call particular attention to the proposal that it should be ascertained whether any Turkish soldiers actually remain on Bubiyan Island.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) T. H. SANDERSON.

FOREIGN OFFICE TO SIR N. O'CONOR.

No. 107. *March 22nd, 1904.*

SIR,

I transmit to your Excellency herewith copy of a letter from the India Office, forwarding a despatch from the Government of India on the subject of the occupation by Turkish military posts of certain positions on the waterway of the Khor Abdulla which are considered to be of great importance in connection with prolongation of the projected Baghdad Railway to the Persian Gulf, and of the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to the districts in which they are situated.

The Government of India do not propose to contest the Turkish occupation of Um Kasr on the mainland, to which, in their opinion, the claims of the Sheikh are not strong; but your Excellency will observe that in the final paragraph of the despatch it is suggested that His Majesty's Government will take such measures as will procure the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Bubiyan Island with the object of establishing and maintaining posts there on behalf of the Sheikh.

The proposal is substantially similar to that in regard to which your Excellency in 1902 expressed an adverse opinion.

The grounds on which that opinion was formed are given in your telegram No. 30 of March 11th, 1902, in the 4th paragraph of which you state :—

"The Ottoman Government will, I am sure, refuse to evacuate Bubiyan for any reasons we can at present prefer, and to meet with a rebuff would be unpleasant, while to be obliged to drive them out would be equally so."



The Government of India urge that at the time when this opinion was given, the strategic importance of a military post at the northern end of Bubiyan Island had not been fully realised.

It may, on the other hand, be argued that at the present moment the forcible ejection of Turkish force from a post on the Coast of the Persian Gulf would be even more inopportune and inconvenient than in 1902.

Before further discussing the question, I should wish to learn whether your Excellency has any ground for anticipating that the attitude of the Turkish Government would be more compliant in present circumstances than you anticipated at the time when your telegram above quoted was written.

I am, &c.,

(Sd.) [*Omitted.*]

SIR N. O'CONOR TO MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

CONSTANTINOPLE,

April 5th, 1904.

No. 249.

MY LORD,

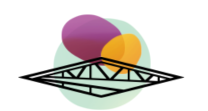
I have considered with the greatest care the views set forth in the Government of India's despatch, Secret, of the 4th February last, a copy of which your Lordship did me the honour of enclosing in your despatch No. 107 of the 22nd March, while asking me at the same time to state whether I had any reason for thinking that the attitude of the Turkish Government would be more compliant in present circumstances than in 1902.

While desirous to give all due weight to the views of the Government of India, which are based on the intimate knowledge of the local situation of affairs acquired by the Viceroy of India during his late visit to the Khor Abdulla, I have no hesitation in saying that the Ottoman Government will resent now, quite as much as in 1902, any claim advanced by His Majesty's Government to Bubiyan Island being the property of the Sheikh of Koweit.

I do not consider, however, in face of the knowledge which we have since acquired as to the strategic and general importance of the position, that this need deter us from upholding a claim which I carefully reserved in my language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 153 of April 1st, 1902.

I see no serious objection to recurring to the subject and reminding the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the reservations I made in 1902 with regard to Bubiyan as well as to Umasr, but as I then based my remarks on the maintenance of the *status quo*, of which the occupation of these places was a violation, it would be difficult to use the *status quo* argument, if the Government of India intend to occupy a port on the northern end of the island on behalf of Sheikh Mubarek. I can, however, urge the Porte not to lose sight of my previous remarks, and complain of the continued maintenance of a Turkish military station on the south-east corner of the island, and press for its withdrawal. If after the lapse of some months, it is found that my representations have produced no effect, I would then propose to adopt the alternative course suggested in the Government of India's despatch by stating to the Porte that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, we shall be constrained to support the Sheikh in establishing a post on the island. The fact that the number of Turkish soldiers stationed at the south-east corner has gradually been reduced in the course of two years from twenty to six, rather

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indicates that, if the question be allowed to be dormant, the whole force will be removed in all probability before very long, and if so, we would certainly be fully justified in strongly objecting to its return and threatening to occupy the northern shore if it should be established. This, however, leaves the question unsettled for the moment and subject to the administrative caprices of the Ottoman Government; it may not therefore be thought advisable; but in any case it will be well to ascertain, before I move in the matter, whether the six Turkish soldiers, reported as stationed on the island during winter, are still there.

I have only to add that the Porte will not, of course, fail to notice that the questions of Um Kasr and Bubiyan Island are regarded very differently by His Majesty's Government, and they will draw the conclusion that, in pressing for the evacuation of the military post on the latter while saying nothing about the former, we practically abandon Sheikh Mubarek's claim to the Kasr.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 402 F. D.—14-5-04.—44.—K. P. M.





[*Received on 16th May with Political Secretary's letter No. 18, dated 29th April 1904.*]

KOWEIT.

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 4).

India Office, March 3, 1904.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 17th March 1902, forwarding telegrams from Sir N. O'Conor on the subject of the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubiyan Island, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to inclose a copy of a letter from the Government of India, dated the 4th February 1904.

In consideration of the importance which Lord Curzon, after visiting the spot with the Naval Commander-in-Chief, attaches to this question, Mr. Brodrick desires again to bring the matter before the Marquess of Lansdowne for his consideration.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Telegram P., dated London, the 18th May 1904.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India,

To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

Bubiyan Island. Please refer to your telegram dated the 27th April 1904 on the subject. Sir N. O'Conor has been authorised to make representations to the Porte as suggested in the 4th paragraph of his despatch No. 249, dated the 5th April 1904. In this connection please see the letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, No. 17, dated the 22nd April. If these representations should remain for some time without effect, the active measures for supporting the authority of the Sheikh of Koweit, recommended in your Secret Despatch No. 25, dated the 4th February 1904, will be considered further.

[*Received on 23rd May with Political Secretary's letter No. 19, dated 6th May 1904.*]

India Office, 3rd May 1904.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, stating that the Marquess of Lansdowne would be glad to receive the views of Mr. Secretary Brodrick on the suggestions made by His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the proposals contained in the Government of India's despatch of the 4th February 1904, with regard to the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubiyan Island and Umkasr.

In reply I am to invite Lord Lansdowne's attention to the telegraphic correspondence with the Viceroy on the subject, noted in the margin.

The Viceroy points out that if the occupation by the Turks of Bubiyan Island, which he reports is being regularly maintained by reliefs from the fort at Fao, is permitted to continue unquestioned, it will be almost impossible

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hereafter to assert the claims of the Sheikh, and he therefore urges that, either the Turks should be required to withdraw their troops and recognise the island as an integral part of the Sheikh's possessions, or that the Sheikh should be allowed to establish a post on the island himself.

Mr. Brodrick agrees with the Viceroy as to the practical consequences of leaving the Turkish occupation of the island unquestioned, and he is of opinion that it would be desirable to address to them such a communication as is suggested in Sir N. O'Conor's despatch of the 5th April 1904.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. GODLEY.

The Under Secretary of State,

Foreign Office.

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G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 547 F. D.—26-5-04.—44. C. P.



Received on 13th June with Political Secretary's letter No. 22, dated 27th May 1904.

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.]

KOWEIT. [May 13.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, May, 13, 1904.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd May, respecting the claim of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubian Island, and to inclose, for Mr. Secretary Brodrick's information, a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject.*

Lord Lansdowne would suggest that the proposals previously made for taking active measures in support of the Sheikh's authority might be considered at a later date should his Excellency's representations remain for some time without effect.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

[This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.]

KOWEIT. [May 10.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

No. 1.

The Marquess of Lansdowne to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 178.)

Foreign Office, May 10, 1904.

SIR,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 249 of the 5th April, I transmit herewith copies of correspondence with the India Office on the subject of the claim of the Sheikh of Koweit to Bubian Island.†

I authorize your Excellency to make the representation suggested in the fourth paragraph of that despatch, reminding the Porte of your previous remonstrances against the maintenance of a Turkish military station on the south-east corner of the island, and pressing for its withdrawal.

I have suggested to the Secretary of State for India, that the further steps proposed by him might be considered later should your Excellency's representations remain for some time without effect.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

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* To Sir N. O'Conor, No. 178, May 10, 1904.

† To India Office, April 18; to Viceroy (India Office, April 25), April 22 (Telegraphic); India Office, April 28; ditto April 30; ditto, May 3, 1904.

6

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. C. 183 M. D.—18-6-04.—52.—E. S. W.





Received on 27th June with Political Secretary's letter No. 24, dated 10th June 1904.

KOWEIT.
CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 23.]
SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)

CONSTANTINOPLE;
May 16, 1904.

MY LORD,

With reference to Your Lordship's Despatch No. 178, of the 10th instant, I have the honour to report that I reminded the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the remarks I had made to His Excellency in March 1902, as reported to Your Lordship in my Despatch No. 144* of the 25th March, in regard to the establishment of Turkish military posts at Um Kasr and Bubiyan Island.

* Proceeding No. 477, Secret E., July 1902, Nos. 307—509.

I said that, in expressing astonishment and regret at these proceedings, I had distinctly reserved the Sheikh of Koweit's rights to these places and had deprecated a disturbance of the *status quo*. I had hoped that, in consequence of these representations, the Imperial Government would have taken an early opportunity of withdrawing their soldiers from both these places. Two years had elapsed since then, and, according to a report which had lately been received and to which Your Lordship had drawn my attention, no steps had apparently been taken in this direction, and it appeared that a military post of some ten men was still maintained on Bubiyan Island. I trusted, therefore, that His Excellency would see the propriety of causing these soldiers to be withdrawn, and save me from the unpleasant duty of returning to the subject again in a more unpleasant form, which I should be obliged to do unless the matter was arranged within a short time.

Tewfik Pasha remarked, in reply, that though the Sheikh of Koweit enjoyed a sort of semi-independence, and had a special understanding with His Majesty's Government, the limits of his province were very vague, and it was desirable that proofs should be produced showing that Bubiyan Island belonged to him. The mere fact that Koweit fishermen repaired there annually was in itself no proof of possession or ownership, and if an incident like this justified a claim to possession, there was no saying where his demands would end.

I said there was no danger of the Shiekh of Koweit preferring unreasonable claims, and still less of their being supported by His Majesty's Government if he attempted to do so, but I considered his claim to Bubiyan was fully justified, and it seemed an undoubted fact that his supremacy and authority in Bubiyan, which was annually occupied by one of the Koweit tribes, had not been questioned till the Ottoman Government had sent a military detachment there in 1902. The island was probably of little or no importance pecuniarily, but a denial of His Highness' authority and rights would be a serious blow to his prestige and influence in Koweit itself, and His Majesty's Government, who had done so much to prevent his interference in the internecine troubles of those parts, were bound to see that he did not suffer in consequence of their advice and protection.

The Minister did not pursue the conversation, and it ended by his saying that he would submit the question in the proper quarter.

In replying to the Minister, I evaded as far as possible entering into a discussion as to the Sheikh of Koweit's rights to Bubiyan Island, for reasons which I venture to think will be obvious to Your Lordship on referring to paragraph 5 of the Government of India's Secret Despatch No. 25,† of the 4th February last, of which a copy was inclosed in Your Lordship's Despatch No. 107 of the 22nd March.

† Proceeding No. 200, Secret E., March 1904, Nos. 200-201.



I thought it also advisable, on the grounds stated in my Despatch No. 249 of the 5th April last, not to entirely disconnect the question of the evacuation of Um Kasr with that of Bubiyan Island, and for the further reason that it opens the door to a sort of compromise, which is always agreeable to the Oriental mind, and which may, in this instance, render it easier to obtain satisfaction in regard to Bubiyan Island.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

G. C. Press, Simla — No. 1105 F. D.—5-7-05.—53.—C. O. G.



No. 57 of 1905.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

SECRET.

External.

To

THE RIGHT HON'BLE ST. JOHN BRODRICK,

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

FORT WILLIAM, *the 16th March 1905.*

SIR,

We have the honour to refer to our despatch No. 25 (Secret-External) of 4th February 1904, and to the subsequent telegraphic correspondence ending with your telegram of 18th May 1905, on the subject of the measures that should be taken to obtain the evacuation of Bubiyan Island by the Turkish troops which are at present stationed there.

2. In that despatch we submitted, for your consideration, the following alternative proposals :—

(*a*) That the Porte should be informed that we were unable to recognise their right to maintain a station on Bubiyan, and should be requested to withdraw their troops; while at the same time we should establish a post on behalf of Sheikh Mubarak on the northern end of the island opposite to the southern anchorage. We pointed out that he had several boats, and could easily, with small support from us, prevent Turkish troops from crossing the Khor Subbiyeh or channel between Bubiyan and the mainland on the west.

(*b*) Should His Majesty's Government deem it advisable to spare the Sultan's susceptibilities by the adoption of a less pronounced course of action, we suggested that our object might be secured by intimating that we regarded Bubiyan Island as belonging to the Sheikh, and that, unless the Turkish force were withdrawn, we should be constrained to support him in establishing a post on the northern shore to balance the Turkish posts at Um Kasr and Al Geit. We observed that in this case the Turks would probably retire, and the island would remain unoccupied. The Sheikh would then resume possession, and it would only remain for us to carry out hereafter such further measures as might be necessary for the maintenance of our legitimate interests.

3. Since then, the following action has been taken :—

In April 1904, His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople suggested to the Marquess of Lansdowne that he should first remind the Porte of his previous remonstrances against the maintenance of a Turkish military station on the south-east corner of the island and press for its withdrawal, and that then, if, after a lapse of some months, his representations had produced no effect, the second alternative intimation referred to above should be made to the Turkish Government.

On 10th May, Sir N. O'Conor was authorised to take action in accordance with his own suggestion, and on 18th May we were informed that, should the intimation remain for some time without effect, the active measures recommended in our despatch to you of 4th February would be considered further.



On 16th May, Sir N. O'Conor reported to Lord Lansdowne the representations which he had made to the Porte. His Excellency carried out his intention of reminding the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the remarks which he had made in 1902, in regard to the establishment of Turkish military posts at Um Kasr and Bubiyan Island, but did not, it appears, avail himself of the authorisation which had been given him for making the alternative intimation originally suggested by us, and practically confined himself to saying that he trusted that the Turkish Government would see the propriety of causing the Turkish soldiers to be withdrawn, and would save him from the "unpleasant duty of returning to the subject in a more unpleasant form", as he would be obliged to do unless the matter were arranged within a short time.

4. Since then no further representation appears to have been made to the Porte until 3rd November, when His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires pointed out that the continued maintenance of the post was looked upon by His Majesty's Government as an infringement of the *status quo*, and that the written protest made by His Majesty's Embassy still remained unanswered. Reference may also be made to the fact that, on 30th December, you informed Lord Ampthill that His Majesty's Government were unable to accept his suggestion that the removal of the Political Agent at Koweit should be made conditional on the removal of the Turkish post on Bubiyan Island.

5. Nothing has, however, happened since the date of their original recommendation to induce the Government of India to depart from their contention as to the importance of obtaining by some means the removal of the Turkish troops.

6. In our previous despatch on the subject we have already furnished you with a full statement of the reasons which have led us to adopt this view; and we need not now do more than point out that the Turkish troops meanwhile remain in the island; that it is evident that the remonstrances made have not been treated with sufficient seriousness by the Turkish Government, who, with the continued postponement of the withdrawal of their troops, are in some degree increasing their presumptive right of dominion over Bubiyan in the eyes of the world in general; and that consequently every additional day of inaction will render it more difficult for His Majesty's Government to insist ultimately on evacuation.

7. In these circumstances, we have the honour to enquire whether His Majesty's Government do not consider that the time has now come when His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople might with advantage be provided with definite instructions to make to the Porte the intimation which was authorised in May last, and also whether they will not agree to take into their immediate consideration the advisability of adopting the alternative local measures recommended by us in February 1904, which we still consider to be of urgent importance for the proper protection of British interests in the Persian Gulf.

We have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) CURZON.
" KITCHENER.
" E. R. ELLES.
" A. T. ARUNDEL.
" DENZIL IBBETSON.
" H. ERLE RICHARDS.
" J. P. HEWETT.
" E. N. BAKER.



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00133

(Received on 1st May 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 15, dated 14th April 1905.)

INDIA OFFICE,
11th April 1905.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letters of the *13th and 31st May 1904 on the subject of the Turkish military posts at Bubyan Island, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to transmit, for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, a copy of a letter† from the Government of India, enquiring whether, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the time has not now come for instructing His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to remind the Porte of previous remonstrances against the maintenance of their military station on the south-east corner of the island, and to press for its withdrawal.

*~~No. 56 in Secret E, February 1905, Nos. 46-58.~~

†Secret despatch No. 57 (External), dated 16th March 1905. ~~(See Secret E. Proceedings, April 1905, No. 207)~~

Mr. Brodrick is of opinion that, nearly a year having elapsed since the date of the conversation between Sir N. O'Conor and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs (reported in his despatch ‡No. 372 of the 16th May 1904) and no action having apparently been taken by the Turkish Government in the matter, His Majesty's Ambassador might now be instructed, in accordance with the authority conveyed to him in Lord Lansdowne's despatch§ of the 10th May last, to press for the removal of the post on Bubyan Island.

‡No. 57 in Secret E, February 1905, Nos. 46-58.

§Enclosure to Pro. No. 56, *ibid.*

It is a matter for consideration whether His Majesty's Ambassador might not further be instructed, in accordance with the suggestion contained in his despatch ||No. 249 of the 5th April 1904, to state to the Porte that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, His Majesty's Government will be constrained to support the Sheikh of Koweit in establishing a post of his own on the island.

||Enclosure 2 to Pro No. 52, *ibid.*

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. GODLEY.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

(Received on 22nd May 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 18, dated 5th May 1905.)

FOREIGN OFFICE TO INDIA OFFICE.

April 19th, 1905.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of April 11th, fowarding a despatch¶ from the Government of India in which proposals are made for further action by His Majesty's Government with a view to obtaining the evacuation of Bubian Island by the Turkish troops now stationed there.

¶Secret E., April 1905, No. 25.

In reply I am to enclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of a despatch** from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople touching upon this question and of Lord Lansdowne's reply†† which had been sent before your letter of April 11th was received.

** No. 209, dated 29th March 1905.
†† No. 114, dated 11th April 1905.



Mr. Brodrick will observe that Lord Lansdowne has indicated the expediency of action practically indentical with that suggested in the despatch from the Government of India. In view, however, of the fact that the Aden frontier question was not yet finally settled, His Lordship thought it desirable to give His Excellency full discretion as to making a representation immediately or deferring it for the moment, and he would prefer to await the Ambassador's opinion on this point before sending definite instructions.

A copy of your letter will be sent to Sir N. O'Conor by the first opportunity.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) T. H. SANDERSON.

SIR N. O'CONOR TO MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE.

No. 200.

March 29th, 1905.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to my postal telegram No. 159 of March 13th respecting the intrigues of the Vali of Bassorah with the Sheikh of Koweit, and the instructions which I was sending to His Majesty's Consul at Bassorah on this subject, I have the honour to report that having learnt from confidential sources that the question of Bahrein was also occupying the Vali, I sent a further telegram to Mr. Monahan to the effect that he should let the Vali clearly understand that His Majesty's Government regard Bahrein as being virtually under British protection.

Mr. Monahan has now reported that in a conversation which he had with the Vali on the 23rd instant, the latter said to him that of course the general *status quo* in Koweit would be respected if such was the decision of the Government but the relations between the Sheikh and the Vali must be changed. The Sheikh did not pay attention to any request and the Vali could get back deserters and criminals from Persia but not from Koweit. His Excellency admitted that such cases had not occurred lately, but he said the principle was important and cases of that nature might occur.

Mr. Monahan then went on to say that natives of Bahrein had applied to him for protection against robbers. The Vali merely replied that the new Mutessarif was in Hasa and that he would do what was necessary.

Mr. Monahan informs me in reply to my enquiries that there are eight Turkish soldiers with a sergeant on Bubian Island.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

FOREIGN OFFICE TO SIR N. O'CONOR.

No. 114. *April 11th, 1905.*

SIR,

I HAVE received Your Excellency's despatch No. 200 (Confidential) of March 29th, at the end of which you report that you have been informed that eight Turkish soldiers and a sergeant still remain on Bubian Island.

Your Excellency does not state whether you are taking any action in the matter, but in view of the length of time which has elapsed since you last addressed the Turkish Government on the subject, it seems a question for consideration whether, as proposed in your despatch No. 249 of April 5th,* the Porte should now be informed that unless the Turkish force is withdrawn we shall be constrained to support the Sheikh of Koweit in establishing a post on the island.

(*1904?)
See enclosure 2 to Pro. No. 52 in Secret E, February 1905, Nos. 46-58.

2



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00134

The Government of India are of opinion* that the Sheikh will feel considerable dissatisfaction at the temporary withdrawal of Captain Knox from Koweit, which will shortly take place; and there is thus an additional reason for endeavouring to obtain a satisfactory solution of the question which has arisen at Bubian.

* See Secret E., April 1905, No. 29.

I should wish to learn whether Your Excellency considers that the moment is opportune for a representation in the sense I have indicated, or whether you think that further delay is desirable.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) OMITTED.

Telegram P., dated London, the 31st May (received 1st June) 1905.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London,

To—His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

Please refer to your despatch† No. 57, Secret—External, dated the 16th March 1905. Now that Captain Knox has left Koweit, it is proposed to take an early opportunity to approach the Turkish Government again about Bubian island and should the reply be unsatisfactory, we will have to consider the question of sending‡ an Agent to Koweit with instructions to arrange for Koweit post on Bubian. During the negotiations with the Turkish Government, our right to despatch an Agent from time to time to Koweit will be reserved absolutely. What support would it be necessary to afford the Sheikh for establishment of the post in question? Sir N. O'Conor anticipates he will be unwilling to take this step.

† Secret E., April 1905, No. 29.

‡ See No. 1369 in Secret E., February 1905, Nos. 1310-1373.

Telegram P., No. 2135-E. B., dated the 5th June 1905.

From—The Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department,

To—MAJOR P. Z. COX, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

We are sending you a copy of despatch dated March 16th, addressed to Secretary of State, with previous correspondence, in which we suggested that Koweit claim to Bubiyan may be maintained and that the withdrawal of the Turkish post be demanded, that in case of non-acceptance the Porte be apprised of our recognition of the Sheikh's claim and that in order to balance Turkish posts at Al Geit and Um Kasr, we would support the Sheikh in establishing a post on the northern shore of the island. We have now received the following from the Secretary of State, dated 31st May :—*Begins.* Now that Captain Knox ......to take this step. *Ends.* Please telegraph your views after consulting Mubarak especially as to last two sentences of the above telegram from Secretary of State.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 377 F. D.—7-6-05.—60—C. G. ER'S.





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00135

Tel. from
Foreign
Simla.

No. 2135 E.B. d/- 5th June 1905.

Vide D/o letter from Russell dated 3rd March 1904 in File No. 53 Conf. 7C.

21. [P]. A despatch copy of which is being sent you with previous correspondence, was addressed to Secretary of State on 16th March. It suggested claims of Koweit to Bubiyan being maintained and the withdrawal of Turkish Post demanded. In case of non-acceptance, the Porte should be apprised that we recognised claims of Koweit and would support Mubarak in establishing a Post on N. shore of Island, by way of balancing the Turkish Posts at Al Geit and Um Kasr. Telegram from Secretary of State dated 31st May. Begins ......"Now that Knox has left Koweit, it is proposed to approach Turkish Government again on subject of Bubiyan Island and should reply not be satisfactory, the question of despatching an Agent to Koweit with instructions to arrange for a Koweit Post on Bubiyan will be for consideration. For the establishment of the Post, what support would it be necessary to give the Sheikh? It is anticipated by O'Conor, that latter will be unwilling to take this step. Our right to despatch an Agent from time to time to Koweit will be reserved absolutely, During negotiations with Turkish Government." Ends.

After consultation with Mubarak, please telegraph your views, especially as to last 2 sentences of telegram from Secretary of State.

P/P. Please
6/6/05





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Tel. to

9c136

British Consul.

Basra.

d/5th June 1905
12 midnight.

[P.] "Lawrence" may please be informed, that there has arisen a sudden urgency for which ship is required by me for 3 days only, and that provided boilers are not actually opened out, she should come back here immediately, proceeding to Basra when job is concluded.

Reply may please be wired, and should prompt return be impossible Captain's explanation should be given.

[signature]



10 to 20 men

Building 500

Monthly 100.

Agent always here.

No water in Sabyu at low tide

Wants 3 posts

Already in their bad books

Too propitious

Imprisonment of his men.

Place Ras-al-Qait as a strategic point possessed of all vessels entering the Khor



Recd. at 10/35 a.m. INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT. (140) 00137

Main / Minor.
by RT

Daily No.
6th June 1905
Monthly No.

Bushire from Bassora

Trans. at Main / Minor. by

Class.	No.	Words.	Original date and time tendered by sender.	OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.
S.P.		21	6 / 12 P.M.	Viâ Fao

To Resident
Bushire

Following from Richards I propose to return to Bushire and postpone visit to Karak until Lawrence is free.

Crow





(141)
00138

Tel. from

Crow.

Basra.

d/r 6th June 1905.

22 [P.] See your wire of 5th June. Reply of Captain —

"Leaving Basra at daylight on 8th I shall arrive at daylight on 9th at Bushire. As the fires are drawn and some machinery opened up, I cannot leave before. Mails arriving at Bushire on 9th June may kindly be stopped.

Crow.



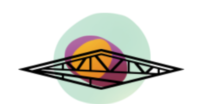


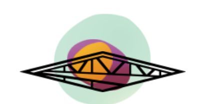
To

British Consul
Busoorah
6/6/05

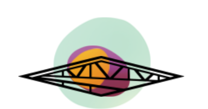
For Lawrence begins
"Thanks. Will embark
"Reshire Friday mor-
"-ning." Resident

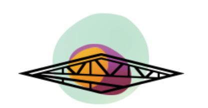
Sent 6.VI.05.





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To

(144)

The Right Hon'ble St. John Brodrick,

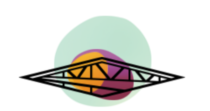
His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

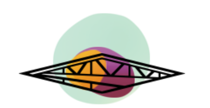
Fort William, the 4th February 1904.

Sir,

In his Secret despatch No. 196, dated the 17th December, His Excellency the Viceroy briefly mentioned his recent visit to Koweit and the Khor Abdulla, and the prospects of the shores of this waterway as a future possible railway terminus. We now have the honour to address you in greater detail on the subject.

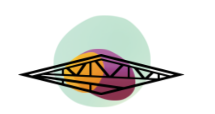
2. It will be within the recollection of His Majesty's Government that early in 1902 it was reported that the Turks had established a post at the head of the Khor Abdulla. The Commander of H. M. S. " Sphinx ", who was sent to enquire into the matter, visited the locality between the 14th and the 19th of February, and reported that, in addition to a position which





which they had occupied at Um Kasr, the Turks had, for the first time about a fortnight previously, stationed a force of some 20 men on the south-east corner of Bubiyan island. This unwarranted encroachment was at once brought to the notice of your predecessor reference was made to the importance of the position seized, and it was proposed by the Viceroy that the Turks should be told that they must at once leave Bubiyan, even if no protest were offered against the occupation of Um Kasr. On the 26th March, Lord George Hamilton telegraphed that it was considered inadvisable to raise irritating discussions about the movements of Turkish troops to places to which the Sheikh's title would be difficult to prove, and it was explained that His Majesty's Government did not wish to obstruct the prolongation of the Baghdad Railway to to the Gulf, whether at Koweit or elsewhere. It was added, however, that their assistance would be conditional upon British capital receiving, in respect of construction, materials, and management, at least equal shares with any other Power. In the event, no action was taken to assert the Chief's claims beyond an intimation to the Porte that their action was regarded as constituting a disturbance of the status quo, and that the occupation of the places in question could not be regarded as in any way prejudicing the Sheikh's rights and authority over them, and the Turkish posts still remain at Um Kasr and Al Geit, where they were then established.

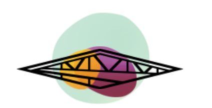
3.





3. The importance of the question lies in its relation to the future probable terminus of what is known as the Baghdad Railway. Article 1 of the Convention, dated the 21st January 1902, between the Turkish Government and the promoters of this enterprise provides that the projected railway shall run from Zobeir to a point on the Persian Gulf to be determined by mutual agreement between the Ottoman Porte and the Company, and there appears to be no doubt that the Turkish advance of 1902 to the shores of Khor Abdulla and the island of Bubiyan was designed to enable the concessionaires to secure, without reference to His Majesty's Government, what was already recognised by the German Engineers, and has since been generally acknowledg-ed to be, the most suitable terminus on the Gulf. The first section of the line is now, we understand, in course of construc-tion by German enterprise unaided, and no arrangements have been made, so far as we are aware, in respect of any portion of the r railway from Konia to the Persian Gulf for securing the con-dition whereby His Majesty's Government contemplated that equality of treatment should be secured for British capital.

4. During his recent tour in the Gulf the Viceroy person-ally visited the Khor Abdulla in company with the Naval Com-mander-in-Chief on the East Indies Station, and the result of the inspection was to confirm the view which we previously entertained of the importance of the Khor and of the superiority





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superiority of its shores, for the purpose of a railway terminus, over any of the sites in the immediate neighbourhood of Koweit which have previously claimed attention. On board the " Lawrence", Their Excellencies passed up the channel to the anchorage below the junction of Khor Zobeir with Khor Um Kasar, and except at the eastern end of Warba Island, where. there is a bar with a depth of two fathoms for a short distance, a depth of four and-a-half fathoms was obtained throughout. The anchorage is some three miles from Um Kasr post, and the banks of the channel are sufficiently high to provide a firm and convenient landing place. To the south of the Warba Island lies the large sheet of water with plenty of depth and room for an anchorage, to which Rear-Admiral Willes refers in paragraph 50 of his letter No.209-1171, dated 8th December 1903, to the Secretary to the Admiralty, of which we enclose a copy.

Owing to the length of the channel and its capacity for easy land or submarine defences, a port in either of these localities would be absolutely safe from any attack from the seaward.

We have already intimated in our Secret despatch No.16 dated the 21st January 1904, that the remarks of the Naval-Commander-in-Chief in paragraph 51 of this letter were written under a misapprehension, and do not accurately represent the political position. It is not necessary here, therefore, to





to take them into account.

5. In our Secret despatch No. 27 (Frontier), dated the 4th February 1904, we have mentioned the probable antagonism of German interests to our own in this quarter and the attitude which, in our opinion, should be adopted towards the designs of other nations in Turkish Arabia, and we consider that no time should be lost in endeavouring to retrieve so far as may still be possible the position which we have so seriously endangered by acquiescence in these encroachments. So far as concerns Um Kasr and the neighbouring mainland, the claims of the Sheikh of Koweit do not appear to have been strong. But whatever may have been their validity, it would be difficult and we would not now propose to try, to induce the Turks to abandon the occupation which for the past year they have been permitted to maintain. The case of Bubiyan Island we regard as entirely different. Here we consider that the Sheikh has claims which can be sustained alike with better reason, with greater prospect of success, and, owing to its insular position, with smaller risk of subsequent embarrassment to ourselves.

No. 42, dated the 28th February 1902. (Copy sent under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter No. 12 M., dated the 20th March 1902.

In February 1902, our Political Resident in the Persian Gulf reported that Sheikh Mubarak had addressed to him a written communication in which he advanced his claim to the island, and asserted that the Avazem tribe, who are his subjects, had lived there since





since the occupation of Koweit for seven months during the summer of each year, and had established fishing enclosures on the island. Colonel Kemball regarded the pretension as valid, and a like view appears to have been held by His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who a few days later telegraphed to the Marquess of Lansdowne that the Consul at Basrah considered the Sheikh's claim to the island to be good. Sir Nicolas O'Connor, however, expressed the opinion that there was no object in raising a conflict about Bubiyan Island while leaving the Turks in possession of Um Kasr. Had the Ambassador then been in possession of the information which is now available, we believe that he would not have entertained this view. With the shores of the mainland and of Bubiyan Island in the possession of a single Power, the anchorages below Um Kasr and at Warba Island can at any time be converted into an impregnable harbour: and even if the day is still distant when the banks of the Khor Abdulla are likely to be armed with foreign forts or batteries, the undivided occupation by a German Railway Company of a potentially invulnerable position is not calculated to conduce to the enhancement either of British commercial prosperity or of British political prestige. Supposing, however, that we are able to make good Sheikh Mubarak's claims, we at once place ourselves in a position to establish, at the north end

Sir Nicolas O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No.33, dated the 16th March 1902.

Sir Nicolas O'Connor to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No.30, dated the 11th March 1902.





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end of Bubiyan Island, a post which would command not only the anchorage but also the approaches up the Khor Abdulla, and we acquire the power to assert in such a manner as our permanent interests demand, our right to participate in all arrangements relative to the prospective terminus of the Anatolian Railway. An additional argument, if any is needed, in favour of strengthening our position at Bubiyan may, perhaps, be found in the fact that the Khor is used as a place of refuge by pirates whom the Turkish Government is unable to control and who, as shown in the Administration Report of the Persian Gulf for 1902-03, commit piracies off Bubiyan.

6. His Majesty's Government have never admitted the Turkish claim to the island, and have, indeed, protested against the interference with the status quo involved in the placing of a post at Al Geit, where, prior to the month of February 1902, the Turks had never pretended to exercise an authority even of the most shadowy description, and where the total garrison now consists of some 6 men. On the same occasion we were informed by Lord George Hamilton that the British Government would resist a Turkish advance on the Koweit side of Subbiyeh. This place is separated only by a channel from the southern end of Bubiyan Island: and the claims of the Sheikh to both positions seem to us to be of equal validity.

+ Telegram of 8th April 1902

7. The proposal accordingly which we submit for



end of Bubiyan Island, a post which would command not only the anchorage but also the approaches up the Khor Abdulla, and we acquire the power to assert in such a manner as our permanent interests demand, our right to participate in all arrangements relative to the prospective terminus of the Anatolian Railway. An additional argument, if any is needed, in favour of strengthening our position at Bubiyan may, perhaps, be found in the fact that the Khor is used as a place of refuge by pirates whom the Turkish Government is unable to control and who, as shown in the Administration Report of the Persian Gulf for 1902-03, commit piracies off Bubiyan.

6. His Majesty's Government have never admitted the Turkish claim to the island, and have, indeed, protested against the interference with the status quo involved in the placing of a post at Al Gait, where, prior to the month of February 1902, the Turks had never pretended to exercise an authority even of the most shadowy description, and where the total garrison now consists of some 6 men. On the same occasion we were informed by Lord George Hamilton that the Telegram of 6th April 1902 British Government would resist a Turkish advance on the Koweit side of Bubiyan. This place is separated only by a channel from the southern end of Bubiyan Island; and the claims of the Shaikh to both positions seem to us to be of equal validity.

7. The proposal accordingly which we submit for



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for your consideration is that the Porte should now be informed that we are unable to recognise their right to maintain a station on Bubiyan, and should be requested to withdraw their troops; while at the same time we should establish a post on behalf of Sheikh Mubarak on the northern end of the island opposite to the southern anchorage. The Sheikh has always urged his claims to this island, and during the Viceroy's visit to Koweit he repeatedly asked why the Turks were not compelled to evacuate both Bubiyan and Um Kasr which belonged to him. He has several boats, and could easily with small support from us prevent Turkish troops from crossing the Khor Subbiyeh or channel between Bubiyan and the mainland on the West. Should His Majesty's Government deem it advisable to spare the Sultan's susceptibilities by the adoption of a less pronounced course of action, we think it possible that our object might be secured by intimating that we regard Bubiyan Island as belonging to the Sheikh, and that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, we shall be constrained to support him in establishing a post on the northern shore to balance the Turkish posts at Um Kasr and Al Geit. In this case the Turks would probably retire, and the island would remain unoccupied. The Sheikh would then resume possession, and it would only remain for us to carry out hereafter such further measures as might be necessary for the maintenance of

our



for your consideration is that the Porte should now be informed that we are unable to recognise their right to maintain a station on Bubiyan, and should be requested to withdraw their troops; while at the same time we should establish a post on behalf of Sheikh Mubarak on the northern end of the island opposite to the southern anchorage. The Sheikh has always urged his claims to this island, and during the Viceroy's visit to Koweit he repeatedly asked why the Turks were not compelled to evacuate both Bubiyan and Um Kasr which belonged to him. He has several boats, and could easily with small support from us prevent Turkish troops from crossing the Khor Subbiyah or channel between Bubiyan and the mainland on the West. Should His Majesty's Government deem it advisable to spare the Sultan's susceptibilities by the adoption of a less pronounced course of action, we think it possible that our object might be secured by intimating that we regard Bubiyan Island as belonging to the Sheikh, and that, unless the Turkish force is withdrawn, we shall be constrained to support him in establishing a post on the northern shore to balance the Turkish posts at Um Kasr and Al Gelt. In this case the Turks would probably retire, and the island would remain unoccupied. The Sheikh would then resume possession, and it would only remain for us to carry out hereafter such further measures as might be necessary for the maintenance of

our



our legitimate interests.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed) CURZON.

" KITCHNER.

" T. RALEIGH.

" E. F.-G. LAW.

" E. R. ELLES.

" A. T. ARUNDEL.

" DENZIL IBBETSON.





(153)

C0149

Tel. from

Foreign.

Simla.

No. 2446 E.B. d 26/r 27th June 1905.

39. [P]. "Please refer to your telegram of 31st May on the subject of Bubiyan Island.

A report furnished by Cox will reach you on 7th July. The idea of establishing post is welcomed by Mubarak on condition:-

(1). That full moral support is given to him by the British Government, the Porte being informed that his claim to Bubiyan is recognised and that he is supported by them in instituting posts.

(2). The following material support is asked for by Mubarak:-

(a). The maintenance as a practical permanency of a Political Agent at Koweit.

(b). The visit of a Man-of-war to Koweit and Khor Abdullah occasionally.

(c). The British Government to contribute for expense of Erection of Guards quarters, Rs 500, and for maintenance of Guard, Rs 100 per mensem.

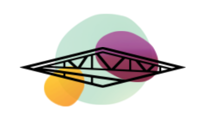
These terms are regarded by us as being fair and we advise their full acceptance.

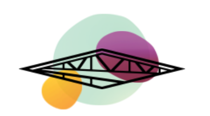
The cost of item (c) is less than subsidy sanctioned in your telegram dated January 17th, 1899.

Sheikh suggests more than one post, and ~~that~~ before number or location of posts is settled, a visit by Cox to Khor Abdullah should be sanctioned."

Addressed to Secretary of State for India

Repeated to Major Cox.





(154)

C.0150

Confidential.

No. 2460 -E.B.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. $\frac{T}{10}$, dated the 11th June 1905.

By order, etc.,

Clomeistocks

Asstt: Secretary to the Govt: of India.

Foreign Department,
Simla;
The 27th June 1905.

(Enclosures to letter No. 22, dated the 2nd June 1905 from the Secretary, Political Department, India Office)

(1) Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office, dated 22nd May 1905 with enclosures.

(2) Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office dated the 31st May 1905.)





Recd on 19.6.05 with Pol. Secy's 22 of 2.6.05.

155

00151

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 22.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, May 22, 1905.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, copies of despatches from His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the Turkish military post on Bubian Island.*

Sir N. O'Conor expresses his apprehension (*vide* 4th paragraph of his despatch No. 248 of the 17th ultimo) that the Turkish Government might propose a "bargain", by which, in return for the evacuation of Bubian Island by the Turkish soldiers, His Majesty's Government would consent to withdraw their Agent permanently from Koweit. Upon this point I am to observe that, should the proposal be made, it ought, in Lord Lansdowne's opinion, certainly not to be accepted. He adheres to the opinion conveyed in my letter of the 16th December, 1904, that these questions must be kept separate and distinct in any discussions with the Turkish Government, and that His Majesty's Government must reserve absolutely the right to dispatch an Agent from time to time to Koweit.

With a view, however, to obviating the eventuality which his Excellency fears, it might be desirable that any further representation to the Porte should be postponed until Major Knox has been temporarily withdrawn from Koweit, which will, it is understood, be almost immediately.

Lord Lansdowne would propose that Sir N. O'Conor should then again approach the Turkish Government and ask whether the soldiers have been withdrawn from Bubian Island. Should the answer prove unsatisfactory, Major Knox might be sent back to Koweit, and might subsequently arrange for the establishment of a post on the island by the Sheikh. It would be a matter for consideration at what stage Sir N. O'Conor should announce to the Porte the intentions of His Majesty's Government in this respect, and this might, perhaps, be left to His Excellency's discretion.

I am to add, however, that his Lordship would wish to have more definite information as to the nature of the support which it would be necessary to afford the Sheikh for the establishment of the post in question. It will be seen that Sir N. O'Conor anticipates considerable difficulty in inducing the Sheikh to take this step.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

* Sir N. O'Conor, Nos. 248 and 297.

[1973 *y*—2]





ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[April 24.]

SECTION 4.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 248. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, April 17, 1905.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 114, of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report as follows:—

As I anticipated that the Porte would be likely, upon my return here, to complain of the retention of the British Resident at Koweit, I asked His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah to let me know whether the Turkish military station still existed on Bubian Island. Mr. Monahan replied that it did, and that there were eight soldiers and one sergeant still there.

The Porte did not, however, mention the matter to me; but, had they done so, I should have replied that, so long as they kept their soldiers on the island, contrary to the previously existing state of things, they had no right to make objections about Major Knox's appointment, nor could I discuss the question with them.

On my side, I thought it best not to make fresh representations, at all events at present, about the guard house, fearing that if I did so they might propose a bargain, and suggest that we should withdraw our Resident, and they the soldiers. I do not think this would suit us, and I should be sorry to see His Majesty's Government renounce their right to send a Resident to Koweit, as, in the existing condition of affairs, some outward sign of our predominant position at Koweit seems highly desirable.

But, apart from these considerations, and supposing that the Porte did not make such a proposal, I thought that my representations would fail to have effect unless His Majesty's Government were resolved either to induce the Sheikh of Koweit to establish a military station at the other end of the island—a step which, taking into account the shifty character and double dealings of his Highness, might require considerable persuasion—or to insist upon the removal of the Turks.

I venture to think that, while the Turkish military station is maintained on Bubian Island, we can properly refuse to give any definite assurances respecting the presence of a British Resident at Koweit, and that even if Major Knox be now withdrawn in accordance with your Lordship's assurances to Musurus Pasha, he should return at an early date. Gradually his appointment will be regarded by the Turks as a *fait accompli*, and their refusal to withdraw their soldiers from Bubian Island will enable His Majesty's Government to consider whether at some future date it may not be advisable to check the Ottoman Government by establishing a Koweit military station on Bubian Island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1944 *aa*—4]





ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[May 8.]

SECTION 6.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 297.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 137 of the 28th ultimo, with its two inclosures, respecting the desire of the Indian Government to press for the withdrawal of the Turkish military station from Bubian Island, but, until I receive your Lordship's answer to my despatch No. 248, Confidential, of the 17th April, I shall not take any further steps in the sense now proposed by the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1973 *h*—6]





158

00154

Copy.

India Office,

31st May 1905.

Sir,

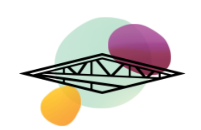
I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to acknowledge Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 22nd May on the subject of the Turkish military post on Bubyan Island.

In reply I am to say that Mr. Brodrick concurs in Lord Lansdowne's views that this question should be treated separately from that of the maintenance of a British Agent at Koweit, and that His Majesty's Government must reserve absolutely the right to send an Agent to Koweit.

With regard to the question of the opportunity for approaching the Turkish Government, Mr. Brodrick agrees that it might be left to Sir Nicholas O'Conor's discretion. Captain Knox, as Lord Lansdowne has been informed in my letter of 24 May, has been obliged to leave Koweit owing to ill-health, and will be unable to return for some time.

Mr. Brodrick will address the Government of India as to the nature of the support which it will be necessary to afford the Sheikh of Koweit for the estab-

lishment





(159)

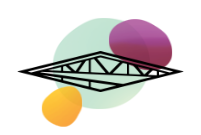
00155

establishment of a post on Bubyan Island, and will communicate their views upon receipt.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) A. Godley.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.





Confidential.

(160)

00156

No. 3225- E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2460- E.B., dated the 27th June 1905.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2489 Date 1.9.05 PERSIAN GULF

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

SIMLA;

The 22nd August 1905.

(1) Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office, London, dated 20th July 1905. (Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No. 30, dated 28th July, 1905.)

(2) Telegram from the Secretary of State for India dated 17th August 1905.

G. I. C. P. O.—No. 451 F. D.—16-1905.—6,000—B. N. D.





(161)
00157

(Copy.)

Received on 14th August 1905 with Political Secretary's letter No. 30, dated 28th July 1905.

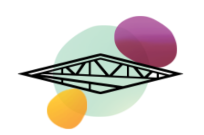
India Office,
20th July 1905.

Sir,

With reference to Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 22nd May and to my letter of the 31st May on the subject of the Turkish post at Bubyan Island, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Brodrick to request that you will inform the Marquess of Lansdowne that the Government of India have now replied to his telegram of the 31st May in which they were instructed to ascertain what support it would be necessary to afford to the Sheikh of Koweit to enable him to establish a post on Bubyan, in the event of such a step being rendered necessary by the failure of the Turkish Government to comply with a request for the withdrawal of their post from the island.

Major Cox has reported the conditions on which Sheikh Mubarek would be ready to take this step and a copy of his letter is attached.

With



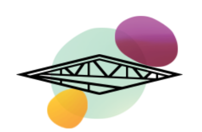
With regard to the first condition mentioned in the Government of India's telegram, Mr. Brodrick apprehends that no difficulty arises, as Sir N. O'Conor has already informed the Turkish Government that H. M. Government reserve the Sheikh of Koweit's rights to Bubyan Island.

The only point of difficulty in the second condition appears to Mr. Brodrick to be the proviso that the Political Agent should be maintained at Koweit on a practically permanent footing.

As Lord Lansdowne is aware, Mr. Brodrick proposed in his letter of the 2nd June 1904 to appoint an officer as Political Agent at Koweit, and Captain Knox was appointed to that post after the concurrence of the Marquess of Lansdowne had been duly received.

The intention of the Government of India was that the appointment should be permanent: but from Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 20th October last, it appeared that Lord Lansdowne adhered to the view stated in his despatch to Sir N. O'Conor, No. 234 of the 20th August 1903, that it would be better "to avoid raising a difficult and inconvenient question with the Turkish Government by appointing a British officer to reside permanently at Koweit." The Government of

India



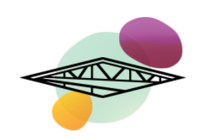
India were accordingly instructed in Mr. Brodrick's despatch of the 11th of November last, and Captain Knox left Koweit in the early part of the present year.

If, then, the Turkish Government are unable to give a satisfactory reply to the question which it is proposed in Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 22nd May last, to instruct Sir N. O'Conor to address to them, as to the withdrawal of their post from Bubyan, it will be necessary to review this decision before any announcement can be made to the Porte that H.M. Government intend to arrange for a Koweit post on the island. It will be observed that Major Cox expressed to the Sheikh his belief that the British Government would inform the Porte that they had recognised the Sheikh's claim to Bubyan and had advised him to institute a post on the island. I am to enquire whether this statement is approved.

Mr. Brodrick assumes that the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury would be prepared to pay a moiety of the financial assistance which the Sheikh would require.

Mr. Brodrick proposes, with reference to the final paragraph of Lord Curzon's telegram, to sanction the deputation of Major Cox to Khor Abdullah with a view

to



to the selection of posts should the occasion arise.

I have, etc.,
(Sd.) A. Godley,

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.



(Copy.)
Telegram.
From. His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.
To. His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.
Dated the 17th August 1905.

Bubian Island. Please refer to your telegram dated the 26th June 1905. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to take any immediate action in the matter and desire to leave to Sir N. O'Conor's discretion the question of an opportunity of approaching the Porte. The question will be considered by the Defence Committee in connection with the question of the eventual Baghdad Railway terms.





(164)

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 2890 Date 21.9.05 PERSIAN GULF 00160

Confidential.

No. 3465. E.B.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3225-E.B., dated the 22nd August 1905.

By order, &c.,

Clements Locke

Assistant-Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,

Simla,

The 12th September 1905.

Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office, London, dated the 9th August 1905.

(Received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No. 33, dated the 18th August, 1905.)





Read on 4/9/5 with Pol. Secy's letter no. 33 d/ 18.8.5.

00161

(165)

ARABIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1307 E.B.

[August 9.]

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Foreign Office, August 9, 1905.

Sir,

I HAVE laid before the Marquess of Lansdowne your letter of the 20th ultimo, forwarding a Report from Major Cox as to the conditions on which the Sheikh of Koweit would be ready to establish a military post on Bubyan Island in the event of the Turkish Government failing to comply with the request for the withdrawal of the Turkish post.

You draw attention to the fact that Major Cox has expressed to Sheikh Mubarak his belief that the British Government will inform the Porte that they have recognized the Sheikh's claim to Bubyan, and had advised him to institute a post there.

In regard to this point Lord Lansdowne desires me to observe that, in my letter of the 22nd May last, no such announcement was at present contemplated. It was, on the contrary, proposed that it should be left to Sir N. O'Conor's discretion to decide at what stage he should make such an intimation, and it is clear, from his Excellency's despatch No. 248 of the 17th April, of which copy was inclosed in my letter, that he was not in favour of any such step for some time to come.

It appears from Major Cox's Report that the Sheikh would desire to establish, not one, but three posts, two upon Bubyan, and one upon an adjacent island, that he would expect His Majesty's Government to pay for the initial cost of their establishment, and for their subsequent maintenance, and that he would desire the permanent residence of a political Agent at Koweit, with occasional visits of a British man-of-war, no doubt as implying that His Majesty's Government would be responsible for defending him from any reprisals to which he might be exposed from the Turkish Government.

Major Cox further suggests that it might be opportune on this occasion to offer the Sheikh an annual subsidy.

You state in your letter that Mr. Brodrick assumes that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury will be prepared to pay a moiety of the financial assistance which the Sheikh will require, and that he proposes to sanction the deputation of Major Cox to Khor Abdullah, with a view to the selection of posts, should the occasion arise.

I am to state, in reply, that it does not appear to Lord Lansdowne that immediate action in the matter is at all necessary. It would, in his opinion, be expedient that, before any decision is taken, the question should be brought before the Committee of Imperial Defence in connection with that of the eventual terminus of the Bagdad Railway, which is already under the consideration of that Committee.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

[2119 *i*—2]





Telegram.

From, Secy Foreign Dept.
Simla.
To Major Cox
Bushire.

Dt 16/17. 10. 05.

No 3857 EB.

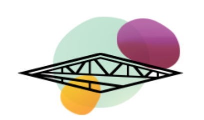
P. Secy of State for India under date October 12th telegraphs as follows:—

In any case Captain Knox should proceed at once to Koweit, but the instructions contained in my ~~letter~~ telegram of 17th August 1905 & Foreign office letter of 9th August should be brought to his notice — end —

Please refer to enclosures to Foreign Dept endorsements 3225 EB. and 3465 EB. dated respectively 22nd August & 12th Sept 1905. Capt. Knox should be instructed in accordance with orders conveyed therein.

Foreign

[signature]





(167)

00163

Confdl

No. 1583 of 1905.

24 . 10 . 05 .

Copies of the ~~attached~~ foregoing papers* are forwarded to the P. A. Koweit for informn.

F. A. R.
(in ch).

—— " ——

* (1) Foreign Office letter to India Office dated 9 . 8 . 05 (recd with Pol. Sec's letter No. 33 dd 18 . 8 . 05)
S. of S. India's telegram to Viceroy dd 17 . 8 . 05.
Telegram from F. D. No. 3857 EB. dd 16 . 10 . 05.





(168)

00164

CONFIDENTIAL. No. 4048 E.B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 3440 Date 16-11-05 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of the foregoing communication is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3465 E.B., dated the 12th September 1905.

By order, etc.,

[signature]

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,

SIMLA;

The 1st November 1905.

Letter from Sir N. O'Conor, to the Marquess of Lansdowne, No. 637, dated the 18th September 1905, (received with letter from the Secretary, Political and Secret Department No. 40, dated the 6th October 1905.)





169

00165

(Copy)

Recd: on 23-10-05 With Pol: Secy's
Letter No. 40, dated 6-10-1905.

Enclosure in F. O. covering letter of Octr: 2nd 1905.

Therapia,
September 18th 1905.

No. 637.

My Lord,

I have the honour to report to Your Lordship that I took occasion during an interview with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 14th instant, to remind His Excellency that, so far as I was aware, no effect had yet been given to my representations against the maintenance of a Turkish Military Post on Bubian Island, which H.M. Government regarded as a disturbance of the status quo previously existing and as an encroachment on the territorial rights of the Sheikh of Koweit, to whom the Island belonged.

I said that it was my duty to call his attention again to this matter, and to request that the Guard House be abolished, and I added that I would inform Your Lordship that I had done so.

My object in making this representation was to forestall the objections that may be raised by the Porte when Major Knox returns to resume his duties as Resident at

Koweit





00166 (170)

Koweit, which I understand he will do next month, and also to show that H. M. Govt: have not altered their opinion as to the status and ownership of the Island.

The Minister listened to my remarks without comment but it would be misleading to conclude from this that either His Excellency or the Ottoman Government recognise the Sheikh's claim in this respect.

I have, etc.,

(Sd.) N. R. O'Conor.





No.1764 of 1905. 00167 (171)

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 21st. Nov. 1905.

Confidential.

A copy of the foregoing letter is for- -warded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information and record.

By order,

C H Gabriel. Lieutenant.

Letter No. T/10, dated the 11th. June, 1905, from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.





(172)

00168

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 4216 E.B.

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 3651 Date 8.12.05 PERSIAN GULF.

A copy of each of the foregoing communications is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the telegram from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 3857 E.B., dated the 16th October 1905.

2. The date on which Captain Knox assumed charge of the Koweit Political Agency should be telegraphed.

By order, etc.,

Lorain Locke

Assistant Secy to the Govt. of India.

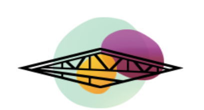
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 22nd November 1905.

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(1) Extract from a letter dated the 6th October 1905 from the India Office to the Foreign Office (Received with letter No. 40, dated the 6th October 1905 from the Secretary Political Department, India Office.)

(2) Letter from the Foreign Office, to the India Office, dated the 11th October 1905. (Received with letter from the Secretary Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, No. 42, dated the 20th October 1905.)

G. I C. P.O.—No. 1877 F. D.—29-11-1904—3100.—C. J. T



No: 1870 of 1905

Confidential

d/12th Dec. 05

A copy of the foregoing Correspondence is forwarded to the P.A Koweit for information

Sd A.P. Trevor

P.A



00169

173

(Copy)

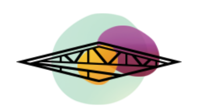
Extract from a letter dated the 6th October 1905 addressed by the India Office to the Foreign Office, London, (Received on 23-10-05 with Political Secy's letter No. 40, dated the 6-10-05.).

x x x x x

x x x I am to enclose copy of a telegram which has been addressed to the Government of India x x x giving instructions, in case the report proves true, that Captain Knox should, if possible, reach Koweit before the German Engineers arrive there. Captain Knox is expected to reach Bombay about the 12th instant.

Mr. Brodrick observes that your letter under reply deals only with the question of the action to be taken in the event of the report as to the German Engineers proving true. He would suggest, for the consideration of the Marquess of Lansdowne, that Captain Knox should in any case be instructed to proceed to Koweit on his arrival in the Persian Gulf. This course appears to be contemplated in Sir N. O'Conor's despatch of the 18th September No.637, on the subject of the evacuation of Bubiyan Island by the Turks. A further reason which appears to make Captain Knox's presence in Koweit desirable is the arrangement reported in Sir N. O'Conor's telegram of the 1st instant for the establishment of a Turkish Postal Official at

Koweit





(174)

00170

Koweit.

If the return of Captain Knox to Koweit is approved, Mr. Brodrick will request the Government of India to call his attention to the views expressed in Sir E. Gorst's letter of the 9th August as to the policy of H.M's Govt: in respect of Bubiyan Island, and to the instructions on the subject contained in the telegram to the Government of India of 17th August last.





175

00171

(Copy)

Recd: on 15-11-05, with Pol: Secy's letter No. 42, dated 20th October 1905.

FOREIGN OFFICE TO INDIA OFFICE.

October 11th 1905.

Sir,

I am directed by the Marquess of Lansdowne to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant relative to Koweit.

Lord Lansdowne concurs in Mr. Brodrick's proposal that Captain Knox should, irrespective of the report respecting German engineers , be instructed to return to Koweit on his arrival in the Persian Gulf and that his attention should be called to the correspondence regarding Bubiyan Island mentioned in the last paragraph of your letter.

I am, etc.,

(Sd.) T. H. Sanderson.





(176)

00172

To Foreign, Calcutta.

Dated 9th Dec: 1905

(Your letter problema No:) 4216 ~~4126~~ E.B.
noster
(dated 22nd Nov: last) Knox
creatura
(took ~~over~~ charge on)
furgia
forenoon of (28th October last)
furtim
vide diary (dated 5th Nov: last)

Ileon.

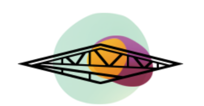
[signature] 9th

Mr. F.

Please code + despatch.

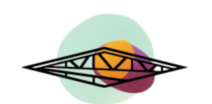
[signature] 9

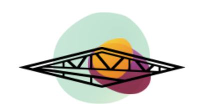
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[initials]
9.12.05





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